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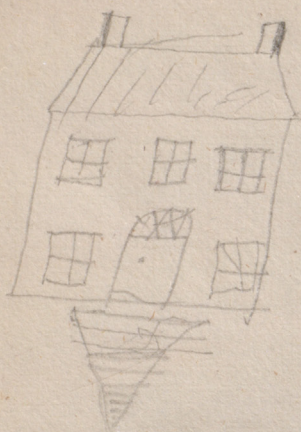


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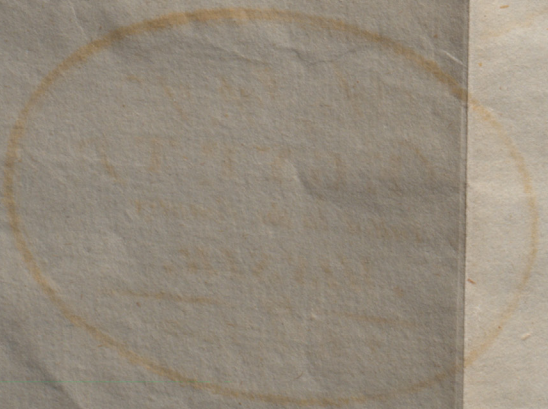
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A Map of
EGYPT
Called in the Country
MISSIR,
by
J.B.D. Anville

W. H. Sturges
VIVANT DENON'S

TRAVELS

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT,

DURING THE OPERATIONS OF THE FRENCH ARMY UNDER
THE COMMAND OF GENERAL BONAPARTE.

ILLUSTRATED BY A CORRECT MAP OF EGYPT, ON WHICH THE ROUTE
OF THE FRENCH ARMY IS ACCURATELY DELINEATED, AND
A VIEW OF THE ANCIENT ZODIAC FOUND IN
THE GREAT TEMPLE AT TENTYRA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH,
BY RICHARD QUINTON SOMERVILLE, ESQ.

IN TWO PARTS.

PART I.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE TRANSLATOR,
AND SOLD BY J. SHEA, 42, COLLEGE-GREEN.

1803.



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TRAVEL

UPPER AND LOWER PARTS

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

NO Country affords a more interesting contemplation to the philosophic and curious mind than Egypt: Distinguished from the most remote antiquity for the invention and cultivation of the arts and sciences, she has been justly esteemed the parent of knowledge and nurse of literature.— To Egypt belongs the honor of inventing geometry, of improving and advancing astronomy, and of founding and perfecting architecture; in this science she stands unrivalled; her magnificent temples and colossal edifices remain lasting monuments of her astonishing genius, taste and execution; they were deemed antiquities in the time of the oldest writer, Herodotus. In such high repute was the learning of this country held, that the philosophers of ancient Greece always repaired thither to complete their studies.

Influenced by these considerations, many ingenious and learned men have devoted their time and fortune to the investigation of the numberless curiosities with which this Country abounds, and to the inspection of the manners and customs of this once-renowned, but now, alas! degraded and de-

generate people:—the names of Pococke, Savary, Volney, &c. &c. are particularly eminent.

M. Vivant Denon, of whose work we now present a correct translation to the public, travelled under circumstances peculiarly favourable. Under the auspices of the First Consul, it may be well imagined, that he was furnished with every requisite for so arduous an undertaking; added to this, he appears to be possessed of the most correct taste and skill.—His account of the war is given with rigid exactness and force of expression, and the atrocities and barbarous conduct of part of the French soldiery is inimitably contrasted with the heroic perseverance and gallantry of others under circumstances the most distressing and trying. On the whole his work deservedly ranks him in the first class of literary genius of the present day.

The chief object of M. Denon's mission, was to take views of the antiquities of Egypt. However, the genius of the traveller was not to be confined within those bounds:—the most animated descriptions accompany the drawings, and these descriptions are continually relieved by observations on the manners, customs, and situation, both civil and political, of the districts through which he passed.

Hence

Hence occurs a considerable difficulty:—to gratify the great body of readers, and at the same time give the plates, would be attended with an expence none but the wealthy class of literary men could bear.—The price of the original work is twenty guineas; that of the translations hitherto made very considerable;—so much so, that the purchase of them is confined to a very few individuals: to render, then, the knowledge of so useful a publication as extensive as possible, the translator has compressed into the compass of one volume, all that is either valuable or entertaining in the original French, illustrating the work with an elegant and correct map of the country, on which the route of the French troops is accurately laid down, and also a fine engraving of the hieroglyphics and zodiac, found in the temple of Tintyra, copied from a plate in the original work.

Under all these circumstances the translator, however diffident of the success of his own exertions, offers Denon's Travels to the public with a conviction, that though its present English dress may suffer from the lash of criticism, the matter must ever prove most interesting to those who, considering the vast consequence of Egypt to England and France, as perhaps ultimately involving the fate of our East Indian possessions, are anxious to possess the most authentic information on the subject.

Some, too, whose hearts glow with the genuine love of their country, who, disdaining the cold dictates of political prudence, dwells with delight on the details of national valour, will peruse with avidity the history of those circumstances which repressed the ambition of Bonaparte, and while they sigh over the grave of ABERCROMBIE, gratify the laudable feeling of national pride in a just tribute of admiration to the virtues and valour of HUTCHINSON, their fellow-countryman.

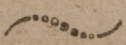
PREFACE

P R E F A C E

TO THE

ORIGINAL WORK,

By M. DENON.


THE chief object of an Author, when he designs to write a preface, is to give some idea of his work. This duty I shall fulfil, by laying before the reader the discourse which I intended to have delivered to the Institute of Kaira, when I would return from Upper Egypt.

Fellow-Citizens,

You have informed me that the Institute expect me to give an account of my Travels in Upper Egypt, by relating, in each of its sittings, the journal that should be attached to the drawings I have brought. Anxious to gratify the desire of the Institute, I will make
every

every exertion to arrange a crowd of notes taken merely for the purpose of assisting my memory in the recollection of the occurrences that daily offered themselves to my observation.

I was travelling through a country scarcely known in Europe but by name; every part of it, therefore, was worthy of description; and I was aware that on my return, every one would be solicitous to obtain information from me respecting that, which, according to his accustomed pursuits, or personal character, most called forth his curiosity. I have given my attention to objects of every description, and if in this country, where they are familiar to the eye, I am fearful of being tiresome to those to whom I show my numerous productions, I shall probably blame myself when arrived in France, for not having multiplied them still more; or rather I shall grieve that circumstances afforded me neither time nor opportunities.

If I have zealously made use of the means within my power, they have been powerfully forwarded by the Commander-in Chief, in whom the most profound conceptions have produced no inattention to details. As if informed

formed that the intention of my journey was to visit the antiquities of Upper Egypt, he sent me with the detachment that was designed for the conquest of that country. I found in General Defaix a scholar, a man of taste, an admirer of the arts; and every attention that circumstances allowed him to favour me with, he cheerfully paid me. In General Belliard, I found a steady, even temper, friendship, and unremitting kindness; in the officers unanimity—in the soldiers of the twenty-first demi-brigade an obliging cordiality; in short, I was in some degree identified with the battalion, and had so established myself among them, that I almost forgot that I was making war, or that war was foreign to my occupations. Having to pursue an enemy always mounted, the movements of the division were rapid and frequent. I was necessarily sometimes compelled to pass hastily the most interesting antiquities, and frequently to delay where there was nothing worthy of observation: but if I have experienced the fatigue of fruitless marches, I have also experienced the utility of taking a superficial view of great objects.—Before we proceed to an examination of their parts, that if at first they dazzle by their
number,

number, they afterwards arrange themselves in the mind by reflection; that if first impressions are to be carefully preserved, it is only when the object producing them is removed, that they can be examined or analyzed to advantage. —It has been my opinion also, that an artist, commencing his journey, should divest himself completely of professional self-love; that he should not give up his attention to that which will or will not make a fine picture, but to the general interest which the appearance of the scene that he designs to draw necessarily inspires. Already have I been compensated for laying down this self-love, by the complaisant curiosity which you, Citizens, have shewn, in eagerly examining the immense number of drawings I have brought, some of which I have made on my knee, others standing or even on horseback: not a single one of them have I had an opportunity of finishing to my wish, because for the space of a whole year I have not met a table sufficiently steady for using a ruler.— I have made these sketches, to reply to your questions; some of them are too small, because our marches were so hasty, that they did not allow time to look into the minutiae of objects, and

and I wished at least to obtain the aspect, and the effect. Thus it was that I drew the pyramids of Sakarah, over the site of which I galloped, to remain for a month in the mud-houses of Benisuef. This time I have given up to the delineation of the characters, the figures, the habitations, and the landscapes of the villages, of the present inhabitants of Egypt. At last I got a view of the portico of Hermopolis, and from its stupendous ruins I received the first idea of the colossal architecture of the Egyptians. On each rock that formed this edifice, there appeared to be engraved—**POSTERITY—ETERNITY.** Soon after, Denderah, Tintyrus convinced me that it was not only in the Doric, the Ionic, and the Corinthian orders, that the beauty of architecture was to be sought—that beauty always was to be found where there was harmony of parts. The morning brought me to those structures—the evening hurried me away, more disturbed than satisfied. I had viewed a hundred things; I had overlooked a thousand:—for the first time I had entered into the archives of the arts and sciences, it occurred to me that I should see nothing grander in Egypt, and of

this I was convinced in twenty journies I afterwards made to Denderah. The temple of Isis has been ornamented by the arts and sciences tastily combined; the cielings, frises and basements, are adorned by astronomy, morality, and metaphysics. We were constantly going forward. A thousand times, I confess, I dreaded lest Murat-Bey, harrassed by continual flight, should return no more, or risk again the chance of a battle. That of Samanhut, I feared, would conclude the scene, but in the midst of it, Murat conceived that the desert would be more fatal to us than his arms; and Defaix once more, perceived, he had lost the opportunity of destroying him, and I had the hope renewed of pursuing him beyond the tropic. We proceeded towards Thebes, the very name of which impresses on the mind the most sublime ideas. I took a sketch of it, at the greatest distance from which I could see it, as if I feared it would pass away from me, and in making the drawing, I fancied that the sentiments by which I was then actuated, would be shared by yourselves. We were forced to pass it precipitately:—thus it was we were obliged to leave every piece of antiquity almost as soon as discovered.—

There

There was a colossus that could only be measured by the eye, and the sensations of wonder which it excited in the mind ; on the right excavated and ornamented mountains ; on the left temples which at half a league distance resembled rocks. I looked mechanically around me for the Hundred Gates, so celebrated by Homer, who has by this one poetie expression, described this magnificent city, extending to such a width, that Egypt with difficulty contained it, and oppressing the earth with the weight of its temples. Altho' I seven times visited this city, the curiosity excited by the first view of it was not entirely gratified ; it was only on the fourth I was able to cross the river. Hermontis, a little farther on, would have appeared magnificent, was it not situated almost at the gates of Thebes. The temple of Esneh, the ancient Latopolis, seemed to me the most finished piece of architecture among the Egyptians, and the grandest production of antiquity ;—that of Edfu, or Apollinopolis-magna, as one of the finest, least damaged, and best situated edifice in Egypt ; even in its present condition, it resembled a powerful fortress. Here the fate of my travels was decided ;—in this passage of the

desert, I first felt the weight of years, of which I had no idea when I first engaged in this expedition; my resolution, rather than my strength, supported me so far. Here I separated from the army, and remained with the demi-brigade, destined to confine Murât-bey in the desert.—Rejoiced to find the bounds of my country, the same with those of the Roman empire, I dwelt with pride on the quarters of the three cohorts by which they were formerly defended. In the period of two and twenty days that I halted in this celebrated situation, I possessed myself of all that was around it. I followed up my conquests into Nubia itself, beyond Philoe, that beautiful island, the treasures of which must yet be torn from its savage inhabitants. After a journey and a siege of five days, I at last got admittance to its temples. Conceiving it incumbent on me to acquaint you particularly with the situation in which I was placed, and the curiosities it contained, I took sketches even of the rocks;—even the quarries of granite, from which Egypt has extracted the materials for her colossal figures, her obelisks still more colossal, her rocks sculptured with hieroglyphics. I should have wished to bring you the models, as well as outlines, of all the interesting objects. Not being able to draw a map of the country,

country, I took a bird's eye view of the entrance of the Nile into Egypt, and views of this river running amidst the sharp rocks of granite which appear to have marked the bounds of burning Ethiopia, and a country more prosperous and temperate. Quitting for ever those uncultivated territories, I took up my residence in the fertile Elephantine, the garden of the tropics: I examined with care and attention all its antiquities, and with sorrow departed from this peaceful abode, where my health and strength had been repaired by gentle occupations.——On the right bank of the Nile, I met Ombos, the city of the Crocodile, and Juno-Lucina, and Coptos, where I was obliged to defend my acquisitions against the enormous fanaticism of the Meccans. Stationed at Kench, I crossed the desert with those who went to fix a barrier at Cosier, against fresh inroads from Arabia. I saw what might be considered the division of the chain of the Mokatani, the uncultivated banks of the Red Sea. I returned to Kench, from which, at different periods, I marched with the detachment to re-visit Edfu, Esneh, Hermontis, Thebes and Denderah. As the love of antiquity urged me to become a soldier, complaisance for my researches often made the soldiers antiquarians.

antiquarians. It was in those latter excursions that I visited the mausolea of kings; that in these mysterious repositories, I acquired an idea of the Egyptian mode of painting, of their arms, their household furniture, their musical instruments, their ceremonies, and their triumphs; it was in those latter journies I was convinced that the hieroglyphics, sculptured on the walls, were the writings of this learned people. After discovering three persons writing in the low-relief, I found that small scroll of papyrus, that unique manuscript, which has already been the object of your curiosity.— It was in those latter journies that I strove to perfect my collection of hieroglyphic pictures, by procuring similarities; it was for your sake, Citizens, and for the benefit of all the literati of Europe, I copied with the most accurate strictness the minute details of heavy pictures, devoid of sense, and in which I could be no way interested.

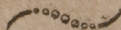
Returning, laden with my works, the weight of which every day increased, I forgot the labour they cost me in the consideration, that perfected under your inspection, and with your aid and assistance, I might one day render them useful to my country, and a suitable offering to you.

DEDICATION

DEDICATION

TO

BONAPARTE.



TO combine the glory of your name, with the lustre of the monuments of Egypt, is to unite the illustrious triumphs of our own times with the fabulous æras of history : it is to revivify the ashes of Sesostris and of Mendes, like you, conquerors ; like you, benefactors.

Europe hearing that I attended you in one of your most splendid expeditions, will feel an anxious interest in my work—I have omitted nothing to render it worthy of the hero to whom I beg to present it.

VIVANT DENON.

DEDICATION

BONAPARTE

To combine the spirit of your name with
the genius of the monuments of France is to
unite the illustrious traditions of our country
with the glorious labours of the present
and to give to the world a monument
worthy of the name of Bonaparte.

It is a task which I feel it my duty to
undertake, and which I feel it my duty to
perform. I feel it my duty to
perform it with all the power
of my mind and all the power
of my pen.

D E N O N ' s

T R A V E L S

IN

E G Y P T.

M. VIVANT DENON long had entertained a strong desire to visit Egypt. Fortunately for his wishes, an expedition against that country was ordered by the government of France, and general Bonaparte appointed to the chief command, who invited M. Denon to make one among the men of learning and science who were to accompany the army, and by whose labours it was intended to adorn the triumph, and multiply the benefits of this memorable enterprize. The possibility now presented, of gratifying the wish of his life, awakened it with new vigour; after providing for the comfort of those whose existence depended upon his own, M. Denon and his nephew left Paris, to whom the brave and unfortunate Du Falga had done the kindness to make his official companion.

M. Denon arrived at Toulon on the 13th of May, 1798; and on the next day, embarked on

board the *Juno*, one of the frigates destined to form the advanced-guard of the fleet. The wind continued from the 14th to the 19th unfavourable, but on the latter day it changed to the north-west; at dawn, the fleet and its convoy were in motion. By noon, the surrounding sea was covered with vessels. Thousands of men were leaving their country, fortunes, friends, children, and wives, almost all of whom knew nothing of the course they were about to steer, nor indeed of any thing that concerned their voyage, except that Bonaparte was to be the leader.

On the 20th of May, the *Orient*, the admiral's ship, and on board of which Bonaparte was, left the harbour. Each vessel took its position in the order of sailing, and the voyage commenced, under a fair wind. The frigates were foremost;—after these, followed the *Orient*, with the advice-boats, and the ships of the line: the convoy coasted between the islands of Hieres and the Levant. Two frigates were dispatched with orders for the convoy from Genoa to join. On the 22d of May, the fleet was off St. Florence, in the island of Corsica.

The fleet steered for cape Corsica, keeping an easterly course, and leaving Genoa and the ligurian shore on its left. Its military line was a league in extent; the semicircle formed by the convoy, covered about the space of six. M. Denon counted a hundred and sixty sail of the latter, without being able to reckon the whole. After passing between cape Corsica and the island of Capraja, the light
division

division of the fleet, at five o'clock on the 24th, had the island of Pianosa on its east ; but to the west of this island, the wind failed, and the heavy convoy lay motionless on the ocean. On the 26th, the frigates were before the mouths of the Bonifacio. The convoy had brought up, and the fleet might have made good progress, had it not been necessary to lay-to for the arrival of the divisions of Ajaccio and Civita-Vecchia. On the morning of the 27th, land was entirely out of sight. At noon on the 29th, the frigates received orders to sail for Cagliari, and to return to Porto-Vecchio, if an enemy of superior force were already there. On the evening of the 31st, M. Denon saw the point of Cagliari.

On the 5th of June, orders were received for forming anew ; an event which encouraged M. Denon and his companions to hope, that they were now to proceed in earnest, and make some advance toward the end of their voyage. The *Diana* led the van. The *Juno* passed the signals to the *Alceste*, by which they were in like manner passed to the *Spartan*, by her to the *Aquilon*, and finally, to the Admiral. In the case of the *Diana* giving chase to an enemy, the five other frigates were to stretch their sails to join her.

The crew of the *Juno* saw this evening some small dolphins under the bows of the vessel ; but while they were preparing to take them, the fish disappeared. M. Denon had an opportunity of observing them closely. He remarked, that they swam with an undulating motion resembling that

of a ship; and curved their bodies in this manner when they sprang out of the water, which they sometimes did, to the distance of twenty feet. Their form was elegant; and their rapid movements conveyed to M. Denon, the idea rather of the gaiety of a tilt, than of the voracity of an animal hunting for prey.

On the 6th, a signal was made to the *Juno*, to pass the night in company with the fleet. M. Denon requested to be awakened at day-break, if land was then still in sight.

At half past three, on the morning of the 7th, he went upon deck, and the first beams of the sun discovered to him, that the whole fleet and convoy, making way, had sailed for the island of Malta. Sicily, had disappeared, with the cheerful and classic shores of which he had the day before feasted his eyes and imagination. The weather was fair, but the wind was too still to allow of fast sailing; and a chase made on a strange sail separated the *Juno* from the fleet, which she was not afterwards able to rejoin. A fish of eighty feet in length, passed within sight of the vessel.

At six, on the 8th of June, the *Juno* discovered the island of Gozo, at the distance of seven leagues. All the ships of war passed this morning under the admiral's stern. Since its leaving Toulon, this was the first time the *Juno* had approached the Orient; and to the crew of the former the evolution appeared so sublime and awful, that except that they delivered, in a low tone of voice, the customary compliment, they preserved the most reverential silence.

On

On the 19th, the *Juno* weathered the northern extremity of Gozo; and a vessel being sent to reconnoitre several strange sail which were discovered a-head, it was found that general Desaix's division, the convoy from Civita-Vecchia, of which they consisted, had kept along the coast of Italy, passed the straits of Messina, and got the start, by a few days, of the main fleet, on its way to Malta.

The *Juno* at five in the afternoon passed Cumino and Cuminotto, two islands which lie between Gozo and Malta, and which compose, with these, the whole territory of the grand master. At six, Malta was in sight. Two wretched barks came with tobacco, for sale. Not a single light appeared in the city at night. The *Juno* was off the entrance of the port, within cannon-shot of the fortress of St. Elmo. All the boats were ordered out. A signal was made at nine o'clock for the frigates to form. There was scarcely any wind. In making the night-signals relative to these movements, both to the ships of war and the convoy, several muskets and guns were fired; and on their discharge, even the sole remaining light in the port was extinguished. The *Juno's* captain went on board the admiral, but the orders he received were not revealed.

On the 10th, at four in the morning, the *Juno* fell to leeward of the island. Taking advantage of a light breeze, a semicircular line was formed by the vessels, one extremity of which approached the point of St. Katharine, and the other, at a league's distance, the left of the city, completing a blockade of
the

the port. The Juno was in the centre, off the forts St. Elmo and St. Angelo. The convoy was gone to anchor between the islands of Cumino and Gozo. A moment after, a cannon was discharged from fort St. Katharine, directed at the boats which approached the shore, and which comprized the debarkation of general Desaix. This was immediately followed by a second gun from the castle which commands the city, and on which the ecclesiastical standard was instantly displayed. At the same time, at the other end of the circumvallation of vessels, the shallops landed the French soldiers and artillery.— These were scarcely drawn up on the shore, before they marched against two posts, the defenders of which gave way, after a moment's resistance. Immediately, a fire was commenced on the boats and vessels, from the batteries of all the forts; and this fire was kept up till evening, with an imprudent precipitation which led to difficulties and confusion. At ten in the morning, the troops ascended the first eminence, and marched towards the rear of the city, in order to oppose a sortie of the besieged, whom they drove within their walls, and under their batteries. The firing was continued till the day had wholly withdrawn. This attempt, made by the knights, in conjunction with some of the country people, had a fatal issue: a commotion had arisen in the city, and on their return thither, many of the knights were massacred.

The wind fell; but the Juno availed herself of what remained of the breeze, to station herself nearer

nearer the other vessels, fearing lest, in the event of a calm, she should be at the mercy of two Maltese galleys, which had anchored at the entrance of the harbour. M. Denon, who was constantly on deck, with a telescope in his hand, had an opportunity of observing whatever passed among the citizens. On the first day, every thing was warlike. The knights in grand council; a perpetual communication between the city and the forts, to the latter of which all kinds of provisions and ammunition was sent. On the second day, the motion was merely that of agitation; only a part of the knights were in uniform; they disputed among themselves, and ceased to act.

At day-break, on the eleventh, every thing remained the same as the evening before. A slow and insignificant fire was continued. A bark left the port, which was hailed, and conducted to the Orient; this bore the ecclesiastical standard; but at eleven o'clock, a second, bearing the parliamentary flag, brought the knights who chose to abandon Malta, and who were unwilling to be numbered among those by whom resistance was made to the French. Their communications manifested, that the resources of the Maltese were almost wholly exhausted. The *Juno* was at four o'clock within half cannon-shot; and M. Denon, in surveying the forts, saw fewer men than guns.

The gates of the forts were closed, and all intercourse with the city had ceased; circumstances which betrayed a misunderstanding and want of confidence

confidence between the knights and the citizens. Aid-de-camp Junot was sent with the ultimatum of the general. Some minutes after, a deputation of twelve Maltese commissioners went on board the *Orient*. The *Juno* was now perfectly opposite the city, which displayed the long streets that pierce its whole extent from north to south.

On the 12th, in the morning, M. Denon learned that the general's aid-de-camp had been received by the citizens with acclamations. By the assistance of his telescope, he discovered that the gate which closes the entrance of fort St. Elmo was assailed by a multitude of the populace, while those within sat on the batteries, silent, and in the attitudes of men in fearful expectation. At half past eleven, the parliamentary bark, which had remained with the *Orient* since the preceding evening, made towards the shore; the *Juno* received a signal to hoist the standard of her republic, and the next moment another, by which those on board were informed, that Malta belonged to France.

This island was to become (says M. Denon) a staple between our country, and that which we were going to possess. Its surrender had completed the conquest of the Mediterranean, and never had France arrived at so high a pitch of power. At five o'clock, the French troops entered the forts, under a salute from the fleet, of five hundred guns.

Geographers hesitate, remarks our Author, whether to join Malta with Europe or with Africa; but

but the figure, the moral character, the colour, and the language of the Maltese, ought to decide the question in favour of the latter.

The Turkish and Arabian slaves were released ;— and never was joy evinced in a more expressive manner than by these injured people. When they met a Frenchman, gratitude shone in their eyes, in the most interesting manner. To form an idea of the extent of their good fortune on this occasion, it must be known that their government would never have ransomed or exchanged them ; that the burden of their chains was not lightened by a single hope ; that they could not even entertain a thought of the end of their affliction.

On the 19th of June, Bonaparte withdrew from Malta ; leaving on the island, besides four thousand men, under the command of general Vauboïs, an officer of the engineers, another of artillery, and a civil commissioner, all those who from any cause, wished to proceed no further on the voyage.

The aspect of Malta is barren ; but every little rock, which has but the smallest portion of earth to cover it, forms a delightful and abundant garden, in the medium climate of which all the plants of Asia and Africa might flourish. This first stove, as it were, might be made to supply another at Toulon ; and thus, by degrees, these productions might be brought to Paris. By this plan, they would be preserved from those destructive shocks which are occasioned by immediate removal into an extremely different climate ; and, perhaps, a naturalization

effected of a large number of those exotics which are now imported yearly, at great expence, and which in the second year languish, and in the third perish.

The whole day of the 19th of June was employed in collecting the army, the light squadron, and the convoy. Towards six o'clock, the signal was given for sailing. The movement became general in every sense, and confusion ensued.

Obliged to yield a passage to the admiral, it was not perceived till too late, that the Leoben frigate was falling foul of the Juno. The officer on deck insisted that the Leoben was in the wrong, and strictly persevered in his tactics. The captain, more anxious to save his frigate than convince the Leoben of her mistake, ordered a manœuvre. The officer ordered a different one; and the consequence was, a moment of inaction. There was, indeed, no time to act. The vessels approached each other, and the rigging of each was entangled and broken. A demi-manœuvre of the Leoben caused her to present her side only; and the concussion was weakened by the tiers of guns which projected from either ship. The crash, however, was terrible; and the cries of four hundred men, whose arms were spread towards heaven, led M. Denon to believe that the Leoben had become the victim of the disaster. In endeavouring to clear the Leoben before she struck a second time, the Juno's starboard became exposed to the Artemisia, which was advancing in a contrary direction; and a seventy-two, which there had not
been

been time to observe, ran her bow-sprit over the fore-castle. The alarm was now at its height. The second movement of the *Leoben*, presented her beams to the *Juno*, and laid her fore-yard on the deck of the latter. This incident, which might have been a very fatal one, was turned to advantage. The sailors of the *Juno*, and especially the Turks who had been released from the *Maltese*, ran to the yard, and made so effectual efforts to turn it away, that the blow, which did not receive any strength from the wind, was deadened; and the *Juno* escaped her danger for this time, at the trivial cost of a hole in her side-planks, made by the anchor of the *Leoben*. By this time, the *Artemisia* had glided under the stern of the *Juno*; the ship of the line also had passed; the efforts made to disembarass the yard of the *Leoben* had repulsed her to a sufficient distance, and these several dangers, which had accumulated upon each other like clouds during a storm, had dissipated themselves as quickly.

On the 24th of June, the *Juno* discovered the western coast of Candia. During the night, the wind had been so violent that the whole convoy was dispersed; and the morning was passed in re-assembling it, and in shortening sail, to give it time to come up. It was during this manoeuvre, that by means of a thick fog, chance concealed the French fleet from the English, which, at six leagues distance, steering westerly, went to seek it on the north of Candia.

On the 26th, in the evening, the *Juno* received signal to drop under the stern of the *Orient*. Her captain was ordered on board; and at his return, M. Denon was informed that this frigate was commanded to hasten forward to Alexandria, and there to learn of the French consul, whether the sailing of the fleet were known, and what were the dispositions of that city, in regard to the enterprize. In a word, that she was charged with the duty of collecting together the Frenchmen resident in Alexandria, and sheltering them from the first emotions of the inhabitants, on the approach of the fleet.

After having put the Franks on their guard, the *Juno* was directed to return to the fleet, which she was to find cruising at six leagues from cape Brule. At noon, on the 27th, she was within thirty leagues of Alexandria; and at four o'clock, *land* was cried from the main-top. At six, it was seen from the deck. There was a breeze during the whole night; at day-break, M. Denon saw the coast to the west, extending like a white ribband along the blue horizon of the sea.

This part of the Mediterranean is dangerous during tempestuous weather, and in the fogs of winter, because on these occasions the low coast disappears, and can only be seen when it is too late; but the *Juno* had the good fortune to weather cape Durazzo in safety, steering east by south.

When the long shadows of evening had marked the outlines of the city, M. Denon distinguished the two ports; the lofty walls, flanked by numerous towers,

towers, no longer inclosing any thing but heaps of sand, and a few gardens, the pale-green of whose palm-trees scarcely tempered the ardent whiteness of the soil ; the Turkish castle, the mosks, their minarets ; the celebrated pillar of Pompey ; and his imagination went back to the past : He saw art triumph over nature ; the genius of Alexandria employ the active hands of commerce, to lay, on a barren coast, the foundations of a magnificent city, and select that city as the depository of the trophies of the conquest of a world ; the Ptolomies invite the arts and sciences, and collect that library which it took barbarism so many years to consume. He was awakened from the luxury of ruminating on grand objects, by the discharge of a cannon from the vessel in which he was, and intended to bring to a boat which made every use of the wind in order to enter Alexandria, and carry, beyond a doubt, the news of their design. Night (says he) soon hid it from our view. Our uneasiness concerning it encreased every moment, and grew into alarm. At midnight, we were hailed by the voices of persons in fear ; and presently our consul and his druggerman were along our side, escaping from the vengeful sabre, and from the effects of the terror which had spread throughout the city.

By these persons, the *Juno* was informed, that an English fleet of forty ships of war had left Alexandria the evening before ; that the English had declared they were looking for the French fleet, in order to fight it ; that the English had
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been taken for French, and that the whole country, already warned of the French expedition, and of the capture of Malta, had risen on the instant, fortified the castle, added a militia to the regular troops, and, assembled an army of Beduins.

The shereef had consented to the consul's coming on board the *Juno*, but in the actual custody of seamen of Alexandria, who were to take him back, and from whom M. Denon learned that the English had steered for Cyprus, where they thought the French were.

The *Juno* returned to meet the fleet. She discovered at day-break the first division of the convoy, and at seven o'clock was along side the *Orient*.

M. Denon accompanied the consul into the presence of Bonaparte. The report they had to give was perplexing; the English had been seen, and might come up the next moment; the wind was strong; the convoy was mingled with the fleet, and in a degree of confusion that, in the event of the enemy's appearance, threatened the most disastrous defeat. Bonaparte, after a silence of a few minutes, gave orders for debarkation.

Dispositions were made to bring the convoy as near to land as the danger of running ashore, during a high wind, would permit. The ships of war formed an outer circle of defence. The *Juno* was directed to cruise before the city, as near as the wind allowed, and to make false attacks, in order to effect a diversion.

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The wind increased. The sea was so high, that the *Juno* vainly laboured, during all the rest of the day, to weigh her anchor. The night was too stormy to perform this operation, without risk of the vessel's being driven upon the boats and transports. These, however, effected a debarkation, though with immense difficulty and danger. The boats received one, by one, and at random, those who descended from the vessels; when they were filled, the waves appeared every instant on the point of swallowing them; and, after escaping this, on gaining the shore, they knew not where to touch, without bilging on the breakers. In the middle of the night, a boat without a tiller passed under the stern of the *Juno*, and called for help. A cable was thrown out; but scarcely was it caught by the unfortunate people when it became necessary to cut it; for, the waves dashing the boat against the *Juno*, it was on the point of being upset. The cries of the people in the boat, at the moment they found themselves abandoned, went to the souls of those on board the *Juno*; and the silence which succeeded gave birth to the most dismal apprehensions. Darkness redoubled the terrors of the night; and the debarkations were as slow as they were calamitous. On the next day, by six in the morning, a sufficient number of troops had gained the shore, to attack and take a little fort, called Marabut.

On the 2d of July the sea was calmer. At noon, the soldiers who had been carried by the *Juno* were under the centre of the walls of Alexandria, near
Pompey's

Pompey's pillar, and behind some hillocks, composed of the ruins of the antient city. These old walls presented nothing to the troops but a series of breaches; a single file shook them, and made a passage for the rest; but on approaching some bad fosses, they discovered more walls than they at first perceived. A fire from the besieged, of extraordinary vivacity, astonished them for a moment, but did not check their impetuosity. Under the fire of the enemy, they sought the most practicable breach. This they found at the west angle, where was the antique fort of Kibotos. They commenced an assault; and Kleber, Menou, and Lescaze, were thrown down by the fire, and by the fall of part of the walls. Koraim, thereof of Alexandria, who fought at every point, seeing Menou fall, thought that the commander in chief was mortally wounded: a mistake which sustained for a moment the courage of the besieged. No one fled. Death on the breach was the only overthrow submitted to; and two hundred of the French actually fell.

The *Juno* was ordered to protect the entrance of the convoy into the old port; M. Denon took this opportunity of going on shore. An old prejudice had said, that if ever a Frankish vessel entered the old port, the empire of Alexandria was lost to the Moslems; and, for the moment, the *Juno's* boat seemed to verify the prediction.

On reaching the city, there was no person to receive or repulse a stranger. With great difficulty, M. Denon and his companions persuaded some

some beggars to shew them the way to the headquarters. The houses were all shut up. Those who had been afraid to fight had fled; and those who had not been killed, concealed themselves, according to the oriental practice, lest they should be put to death by the victors. All was new to Europeans. The first scene that presented itself was a vast burying ground, covered with innumerable tombs, raised in white marble, upon white earth; and where a few meagre women, wrapt in long and ragged garments, looked like so many ghosts, wandering among the graves: the silence was interrupted only by the cries of the kites who hovered over this asylum of the dead. From the burying ground, they passed into narrow streets, equally solitary. M. Denon, passing through Alexandria, thought himself reading the description given of that city by M. Volney; and he observes, that form, colour, sensation, and every thing else is there painted with such a degree of truth, that if the same traveller had described all Egypt in that manner, no one would ever think it necessary to make another picture.

In his whole walk through this long city, he regarded it as a melancholy one, and found nothing that resembled Europe and its cheerfulness but the noise and activity of the sparrows. In its dogs, he could not recognize the friend of man, the faithful and generous companion, the gay and loyal courtier; they were here, morose egotists, strangers to the master under whose roof they were sheltered; in-

dependent, but still slaves, they mistrusted him whose abodes they nevertheless defended, but whose dead body they would without horror devour.

On reaching the head-quarters, he found Bonaparte surrounded by the principal persons of the city, and the members of the old government, whose oaths of fidelity he received. "I have taken you with arms in your hands," said Bonaparte to the shereef Koraim, "and I might treat you as a prisoner; you have displayed courage, and as I believe courage inseparable from honour, I return you your arms, and conclude that you will be as faithful to the republic as you have been to a bad government." M. Denon remarked in the physiognomy of this man, whom he denominates shrewd, dissimulation shaken but not vanquished by the generous frankness of the commander-in-chief. He was not yet acquainted with their strength, nor sure that what had passed in the morning had not been the consequence of surprise; but when he saw thirty thousand men and trains of artillery, he endeavoured to win the favour of Bonaparte. He quitted the head-quarters no more: Bonaparte had retired to rest, before he left the anti-chamber; conduct worthy of remark, in a Moslem.

On the 4th of June, M. Denon accompanied the general on a reconnoitring party. They visited all the forts, that is to say the ruins, and found them very indifferent edifices, or rather bad guns lying on a few stones that served to mount them. Bonaparte's orders were to pull down such as could be of

no service, and to repair only such as might keep off the Beduins. He gave all his attention to the batteries that might defend the ports.

They went close to Pompey's pillar. This monument was named the pillar of Pompey in the fifteenth century, when learning began to revive from its lethargy. Learned men, rather than observers, were eager at that period to give names to all the remains of antiquity; these names have been handed down from age to age, without contradiction, and become consecrated by tradition. A monument had been erected in Alexandria to Pompey; this monument was lost; and it was believed to have been re-discovered in this pillar. It has since been made a trophy of Septimus Severus; but it stands upon the rubbish of the ancient city, and in the time of Septimus Severus the city of the Ptolemies was not in ruins. To make a solid foundation for the column, an obelisk was overturned, on the base of which has been placed a bad pedestal, which supports a beautiful shaft, surmounted by a Corinthian capital, heavily chiseled.

Digging round the column would doubtlessly be the means of making some discoveries respecting its origin. Near this column are fragments of others, of the same material and diameter; the earth, on being dug, betrays the ruins and foundations of great buildings, the outlines of which are still visible on the surface; as, a square of great magnitude, and a large circle, of which the principal dimen-

ons, though covered with sand and rubbish, may even now be measured.

After observing that the column called of *Pompey* is of very chaste proportions, that the pedestal and capital are not of the same granite as the shaft, that the workmanship of the latter is heavy and seems no better than a botch, and that the foundation, formed of ruins, declares its erection to be modern; it is natural to conclude that this monument is not antique, and that the period in which it was raised may with equal reason be referred to that of the Greek emperors or that of the khalifs: since, if the pedestal and capital are sufficiently well executed to belong to the former of these eras, they have not so great perfection as to render it impossible that the art might be at that height in the latter.

Returning from the pillar towards the modern city, M. Denon crossed that of the Arabs, or rather that which is surrounded by their walls; this latter being at present only a desert over which is scattered a few inclosures, which during the months of the inundation are gardens, and in which, during the remainder of the year, are preserved as many trees and vegetables as the cistern each contains will supply. This cistern is the principle of their existence; if it dries up, the garden returns into heaps of rubbish and sand.

There are at the door of each of these gardens, monuments of an amiable piety: these are reservoirs of water, with pumps by which they may be filled

filled at pleasure, and which thus offer to the passenger the means of satisfying that want which, in this burning climate, ranks among the most urgent in nature.

M. Denon visited a ruin of a reddish hue, which is denominated, by the Catholics, the house of St. Katharine the Learned, her who espoused the infant Jesus four hundred years after his death : this is a Roman structure ; and M. Denon supposes it to have been a hot-bath.

The next antiquity which presented itself was the obelisk called of Cleopatra. Another, which, having been overthrown, lies by the side of the former, demonstrates, that both decorated one of the entrances of the palace of the Ptolemies, of which, within a few paces from these, the ruins are still to be observed. These obelisks, as being covered with hieroglyphics, M. Denon regards as more interesting than Pompey's pillar, which is a mere column, of a height very little superior to that of many others.

M. Denon, on returning by the sea side to the bottom of the harbour, remarked the ruins of buildings of all ages, equally injured by the ocean and by time. He distinguished the remains of baths, several chambers of which still exist, and which have been built in walls more antient than themselves. These fabrics appear to be Arabian ; and there have been raised around them, for their preservation, a sort of palisade of columns, the immense number of which proves the magnificence
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of the palace they decorated. After passing the bottom of the harbour, large Saracenic buildings are met with, in which, with some magnificent particulars, there is a mixture of style that embarrasses the spectator: frises, ornamented with Doric trygliphs, surmounted by vaults in ogives, ought to raise a belief, that these fabrics have been constructed with antique fragments which the Saracens mingled with their own architecture. The doors of these edifices may show the degree of indestructibility that belongs to the wood of the sycamore, which has remained entire, while, the iron with which it was garnished has yielded to the atmosphere, and wholly disappeared. The Arabian hot baths, decorated with every kind of minute magnificence, are behind this species of fortress.

Near these baths is one of the principal mosks, formerly a primitive church, under the name of St. Anthanasia. This edifice, as much dilapidated as it is superb, may convey a notion of the indolence of the Turks with regard to the objects of which they are most jealous. Before the arrival of the French, they would not suffer a christian to approach it; but they preferred placing a guard at the gates, to giving them any repair. In the state in which the French found them, they would neither close nor turn on their hinges. This mosk has a covered portico, supported by arches on four ranks of columns, of various kinds of marble; and the walls and pavement of which are covered with mosaic work, in marble. The frieze contains sentences

tences of the koran, in large characters, executed in enamel. This portico opens into a square court, paved likewise with marble, and surrounded by a gallery, raised on columns similar to the others. The most wretched buildings are joined by the Turks to this and all the other monuments of Saracenic magnificence. In the court, plants which have grown into trees, have forced up the marble pavement. In the centre of this court, a little octagon temple incloses a cistern of Egyptian workmanship, and incomparable beauty, both on account of its form, and of the innumerable hieroglyphics with which it is covered, inside and out. This monument appears to be a sarcophagus of antient Egypt.

Near this mosk are three columns of which no former traveller has spoken. Their present distance from each other render it probable that they have been re-set up ; and digging round their site would possibly prove that they are remnants of a large and magnificent edifice.

On advancing to the port of Rashid, the horrors of war were found still existing in this quarter.— On the arrival of the French, it had been defended by the Turks. Rashid is a sort of fortified suburb : composed of a groupe of houses, between which and Alexandria is a space of half a league.

On quitting their ships, the greatest part of the army had entered Alexandria only to pass through it to the desert. Bonaparte, who had possessed himself of this city with the rapidity that once did

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St. Lewis, avoided the error into which the latter fell. Without giving time for the enemy to reconnoitre, or for his troops to discover the penury of Alexandria, and its sterile territory, or gather information concerning the places they were going to occupy, he caused the several divisions to march, immediately on their debarkation. One officer, among the rest, said to his troops at the moment of their landing: "My friends, you are going to sleep at Beda; you hear me: Beda; march;" and the soldiers marched. More inquisitive than astonished, they arrived at Beda, which they expected to find a village, built and peopled like those of Europe; but there was nothing but a well, covered with stones, through which distilled a little muddy and brackish water, which, collected in cups, was distributed among them in little rations, like brandy. Such was the first station taken by the French troops in a distant part of the world, separated from their country by seas covered with enemies, and by deserts still more to be dreaded: yet this singular situation made no impression on their courage, or their gaiety.

On the second day of the march of the troops across the desert, from Alexandria, they met, near Beda, a young woman, whose face was smeared with blood. She held in one hand a young infant, and with her other vacantly stretched out to the object that might strike or guide it. Their curiosity was excited. They called their guide, who was at the same time their interpreter. They approached;
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and they heard the sighs of a being from whom the organs of tears had been torn away! Astonished, and desirous of an explanation, they questioned her. They learned that the dreadful spectacle before their eyes had been produced by a fit of jealousy. Its victim presumed to utter no murmurs, but only prayers in behalf of the innocent who partook her misfortune, and which was on the point of perishing with misery and hunger. The soldiers, struck with compassion, and forgetting their own wants in the presence of the more pressing ones of others, immediately gave her a part of their rations.— They were bestowing part of the precious water with which they were threatened to be soon wholly without themselves, when they beheld the furious husband approach, who, feasting his eyes at a distance with the fruits of his vengeance, had kept its victims in sight. He sprang forward, snatched from the woman's hands the bread, the water, (that last necessary of life!) which pity had given to misfortune; "Stop!" cried he: "she has lost her honour, she has wounded mine; this child is my shame, it is the son of guilt!" The soldiers resisted his attempt to deprive the woman of the food they had given her. His jealousy was irritated at seeing the object of his fury become that of the kindness of others. He drew a dagger, and gave the woman a mortal blow; then seized the child, threw it into the air, and destroyed it by its fall; afterwards, with stupid ferocity, he stood motionless,

tionless, looking stedfastly at those who surrounded him, and defying their vengeance.

On enquiring whether there were no prohibitory laws against such an atrocious abuse of authority, M. Denon was informed that the man had *done wrong* to stab the woman, because at the end of forty days, she might have been received into a house, and fed by charity.

Kleber's division, commanded by Dugua, had taken the route to Rashid, for the purpose of protecting the fleet which had entered the Nile. On the 6th and 7th of June, the main army began its march, by the way of Birket and Demenhur. — The Arabs attacked the advanced-guards, and harassed the rest. Death was the forfeit paid by those who did not keep up with their columns. Desaix, having fallen fifty paces behind, was on the point of being taken; and Le Mireur, a distinguished officer, was assassinated at a hundred paces from the advanced-guard, in consequence of having failed to pay attention, through a melancholic abstraction of mind, to an invitation to keep with the rest. Adjutant Delanau, was made a prisoner at a very short distance from the army in crossing a ravine; a price was offered for his ransom; the Arabs quarrelled about the sharing it; and, to settle the dispute, they burnt his brains.

The mamluks were first seen in the neighbourhood of Demenhur, where they reconnoitred; and this display of themselves, as well as the insignificant battle at Jibbrish, had rendered the soldiers acquainted

quainted with them, and removed that terror which is always excited by an unknown enemy.

The villages, as the French army approached them, were deserted by the inhabitants, who carried with them all the provisions they contained. Water-melons were the first refreshment which the army received from the soil of Egypt. On reaching the Nile, the soldiers threw themselves into that river, clothed as they were, to drink, as it were, at every pore.

After passing Rahmanieh, their marches along the banks of the river, were much less painful than before. On the 19th day of July, they encamped at Ammel-Dinar. Before day-break the morning following they recommenced their march; and after twelve hours approached near Embabeh, where the mamluks were in an entrenched camp, surrounded by a bad ditch, and defended by thirty-eight pieces of artillery. On discovering the enemy, the army prepared for battle. "Go," said Bonaparte, pointing to the pyramids, after giving his last orders, "and consider that from those monuments, forty ages survey our conduct!"

Desaix had passed the village with the advanced-guard; Reynier followed on his left; Dugua, Vial, and Bon, still on the left, formed a semicircle as they approached the Nile. Murat-bey, on reconnoitring, seeing no cavalry, said he was going to cut down the French like *gourds*. On this, the principal body of the mamluks which was before Embabeh, charged Dugua's division with such rapidity

pidity that it scarcely had time to form. They were received with a discharge of field-pieces, which made them halt; and by an unskillful movement, they threw themselves on the bayonets of the division of Defaix. A continued and well-supported fire by files occasioned a second surprize. For a moment, they halted; then, suddenly attempting to turn the division, they passed between that of Reynier and that of Defaix, and thus received the cross-fire of both, which led to their overthrow. Being now without a plan, one party returned towards Embabeh; the other endeavoured to intrench itself within an inclosure surrounded by palm-trees, lying to the west of the two divisions, from which they were dislodged by the artillery: after which they took the road to the desert of the pyramids. These were they who afterwards disputed Upper Egypt with the French.

In the mean time the other divisions, on approaching the village, were annoyed by the artillery of the intrenched camp. They resolved to attack it, and to avail themselves of a deep ditch, by which they would be defended from the cavalry. The divisions marched in order of battle, preceded by their wings. In vain the mamluks attacked the wings. They opened their thirty-eight pieces of artillery. The French rushed on the cannon with so much impetuosity that they had no time to load again; and forced the trenches with the bayonet. Five hundred mamluks on horseback, and as many fellahs, performed prodigies of valour in vain;—
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their retreat, in turning Embabeh, and in taking an intrenched position behind a ditch that joined the Nile, generals Marmont and Rampon had cut off. Not one of them would surrender, nor did one escape. Prevented from passing along the banks of the Nile, they plunged into the river, to rejoin the corps of Ibrahim-bey, who had stationed himself opposite, in order to cover Cairo. From this moment, it was no longer a battle, but a massacre: the enemy appeared to defile, only to be shot; and to escape the fire of the battalions, only to be drowned. The whole of his artillery, with four hundred camels, his baggage and provisions, fell into the hands of the conqueror.

Murat-bey, seeing the village of Embabeh carried, endeavoured to secure his retreat. He was pursued to Gaza, where he gave a signal to his followers to fly; and where the French took their station, after a march and battle of nine hours.—Only ten soldiers were killed, and about thirty wounded.

General Menou had remained at Alexandria, on account of a wound he had received. He was charged with the organization of the government of Rashid, and was besides to take a survey of the Delta, or Lower Egypt. The general invited M. Denon to accompany him on his journey; the latter consented, and they embarked in an advice-boat at the new port of Alexandria. They were scarcely a few leagues at sea, when general Menou was seized with a convulsive vomiting, which, occasioning

casioning him to fall head-foremost on the breach of a cannon, nearly cost him his life. His companions debated among themselves whether to carry him on board the *Orient*, which was at anchor with the rest of the fleet at Abukir, or to enter the Nile, which the sailors said could be done in a few hours, and where the sickness of the general would cease. The latter plan was adopted. In a few hours they found themselves, without previous knowledge, at one of the mouths of the Nile, when a scene of the most distressing nature ensued. The water of the Nile, repulsed by the wind, rose in waves of immense height, which were perpetually overwhelmed and broken by the current, with a frightful noise. A French vessel, which had been wrecked, and of which the waves were now completing the destruction, was the only sea-mark by which they could ascertain the coast. Several other vessels in the same distressed situation with themselves, approached for the sake of mutual consultation. There was no pilot of the coast; and none had any thing left to advise. General Menou grew worse. It was resolved to reconnoitre the *bogaz*, or bar of the river; and M. Denon and *chef-de bataillon* Bonnicarrere got into the boat for this purpose. They had scarcely quitted their vessel, when they were surrounded by abysses, and could no longer behold any thing but the undulating summits of waves by which they were threatened to be overwhelmed. They were now a thousand fathoms from the aviso, to which it was impossible for them to return. M. Denon
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grew sea-sick ; and all that remained was to await the event with anxiety. He was covering himself with his mantle, in order to pass the night in this situation, when their boat passed a felucca, on which he saw an unfortunate man who, in descending to a boat for debarkation, had remained suspended by a cord. He was nearly exhausted by the efforts he had made to maintain himself in this perilous condition. From this sight, M. Denon received so great a shock, that his sickness ceased. In indescribable agitation, he shouted rather than cried ; and the seamen mingling their cries with his, they were at length heard on board the felucca. They could not, at first, make themselves understood. The men thought of every thing else before the wretched creature whose strength was expiring : at last, they discovered him, and in time to save his life.

The boat now regained the aviso : M. Denon and his companions boarded her in safety. The wind fell a little ; but the sea continued high. The night came on, which turned out less tempestuous than the day.

The general was too ill to take any share in the conduct to be pursued. The rest held a new council, and resolved to trust themselves to their boat to enter the Nile. In this they succeeded.—After an hour's rowing, they gained the most pacific part of the most pacific of rivers, and in half an hour more, were surrounded by the freshest and most verdant of countries. General Menou had soon recovered sufficiently to maintain his seat, and had
released

released his friends from all anxiety concerning his wound.

They observed on their right a fort, and a battery on their left, which were built for the defence of the mouth of the Nile, but which now stand at the distance of a league from the river. The construction of these forts, says M. Denon, cannot be dated before the invention of gunpowder, which gives three hundred years for their utmost age; and from this may be inferred the rapidity with which the mud of the Nile has accumulated. The ruin of a battery stands before a mosque, and has a cannon of twenty-eight inches caliber, the only benefit expected from which is the procuration of favourable deliveries for those pregnant women by whom, with faith, it is beset.

An hour's journey beyond these, lies Rashid, situated on the banks of the Nile, and embosomed by date-trees, banana-trees, and sycamores. Rashid is built near the mouth of the bobitnian branch of the Nile. Its old walls announce that it was once larger than at present. Like that of Alexandria, its population is daily decreasing. The few houses that continue to be built, are constructed of the old bricks that had belonged to edifices which became ruins in default of inhabitants and reparations.— These houses are in general better built than those of Alexandria; but they are so slight, that were it not for the clemency of the climate, which destroys nothing, they could not stand. Each succeeding story projects farther into the street than that beneath it;

it; so that the two sides finish by almost touching each other. Hence the avenues are dark and gloomy. Many of the houses have been built by the Franks, and resemble the European architecture of the fourteenth century, more than the oriental manner which prevails in the other towns in Egypt. The dwellings that lie on the Nile have not this inconvenience. These principally belong to foreign merchants; and their situation might be greatly embellished by building a quay along the shore. Besides a view of the navigation, these houses have also that of the delightful bank of the island called the Delta, which is a perfect garden, of a league in extent.

The inhabitants of the left bank of the Nile, that is of the Delta, are more refined and sociable than those of the right; this may be attributed to the abundance they enjoy, and the tranquillity in which they are left by the Arabs, who never cross the river, and which tranquillity is unknown to the others, during a single moment of their lives.

Envy, that evil from which the abode of want is not exempt, hovers over even the burning sands of the desert. The Beduins, at war with all the world, hate and envy only the Beduins who are not of their own horde. They enter into every war; they put themselves in motion the moment a domestic quarrel, or foreign enemy, troubles the repose of Egypt; and, without joining either party, they make use of their hostilities to pillage both. Where the booty is, there is the enemy of the Beduins.

duins. Their barbarity, meanwhile, has nothing in it atrocious.

Free from religious prejudices himself, the Beduin tolerates all. A few revered customs serve him for laws. His principles resemble the virtues which are sufficient for the partial association he forms, and for the patriarchal government under which he lives.

The hospitality of this people is exemplified in the following instance :—A French officer had been several months the prisoner of an Arab chief. Surprized by the French cavalry in his camp at night, the latter had only time to fly ; tents, flocks, provisions, all were taken. The next day, wandering, separated from his friends, without resource, he took from under his clothes a loaf ; and, giving the half of it to his prisoner, “ I know not,” said he, “ when we shall eat another ; but I will never be accused of not having divided my last with the friend whom I had made.” Whatever may be the features of ferocity which they betray on other occasions, can we hate such people ? and what advantages over us do they not derive from this sobriety, so striking when compared with the wants that we have created for ourselves ?

Before the French were masters of Kaira, the inhabitants of the banks of the Nile, thinking their existence in Egypt very precarious, suffered the army to pass with every appearance of submission ; but supposing that it must inevitably be destroyed by their invincible masters, and desirous that this sub-
mission

mission should be pardoned, and moreover willing to indulge themselves in plundering, they made a practice of firing on the vessels which were sent up the river, for the use of the troops. In consequence, an aviso and a few troops were sent against them.— Their instructions were pacific; and, accordingly, after receiving formal submissions and hostages they returned. Some days after, another vessel sailed for Kaira. She never reached that city; and from the people of the country it was learned she had been attacked above Fuch; that her people, after being all wounded, had thrown themselves into the water; and hurried away by the current, they had been driven on shore; and that, seized and carried to Salmia, they were there shot. General Menou thought himself obliged to make an example of the offenders. Two hundred men, carried by a demi-zebeck, and other barks, landed within half a league of Salmia. A detachment turned the village; another followed the banks of the river; the third, which was to complete the circumvallation, remained fixed two leagues below. The enemy was drawn up, on horseback, before the village. He began the attack, and charged even to the points of the bayonets. The principal men being killed by the first fire of the French, and the rest finding themselves surrounded, fell into disorder; but the third division, which was ordered to cut off their retreat, not coming up in time, the shech and his followers who still survived, made their escape. During the day, the village was given

up to plunder, and to fire as soon as night arrived. The flames, and discharge of cannon, which continued for a considerable time, warned the surrounding country, that the vengeance taken had been terrible.

The troops returned to Futeh, where all the shechs of the province, being previously convoked, were assembled. With respect and resignation they heard the manifesto which was read to them relative to the late proceedings, and the terms upon which Salmia was to be restored. An aged shech was appointed to the place of him whom the French had dispossessed, and he was sent to collect the scattered inhabitants and bring back a deputation, which arrived on the third day. The troops which escorted the shech, were received with acclamations by the natives. They declared that they had seen in the conduct of the French the reverse of a wish to do them harm, since only nine guilty persons had been killed, and only a part of the village burned.

At Salmia an ordinary post was established; and general Menou's expedition was concluded by a tour of the department. He was welcomed in every village; the chief of the place received him and his followers, and provided them more than they could want, at the expense, as was afterwards found, of the inhabitants.

The largest and best house in the village, which had almost always belonged to a mamluk, was suddenly furnished with mats, carpets, and cushions, according to the custom of the country. A repast commenced

commenced by the entrance of a number of servants bringing perfumed and cold water, coffee, and pipes—in a little time afterwards was spread a carpet, round which was formed a border of several kinds of loaves and cakes, while the middle was covered with plates of sweetmeats, fruits, creams, and other productions of the dairy, of which the greater part were very agreeable & highly perfumed. This repast was soon finished; but in about two hours the same carpet was again covered; other loaves were brought, and large dishes of rice, dressed with fresh beef and with milk, half-sheep, indifferently roasted, large quarters of veal, heads of sheep and calves boiled, and sixty other dishes, containing spiced ragouts, vegetables, jellies, confectionaries, and honey. There were no chairs, plates, spoons, forks, goblets or napkins. The company, squatted on their heels, with their knees bent up to their breasts, helped themselves to rice with their fingers, and with their nails divided the meat. They dipped the bread in the ragouts, and therewith wiped their hands and mouths. They drank water from one pot. He that did the honours of the feast always drank first. He, also, first tasted every dish, to testify how careful he was of the safety of his guests, and what attention he paid to their persons. Napkins were presented after dinner, and water was brought to wash their hands. Rose-water was then sprinkled on every person present, and the whole was concluded with pipes and coffee.

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When the French had done, people of inferior rank supplied their places, and were very soon relieved by others: on a religious principle, a beggar was next admitted; then the servants, and then every one who chose, till all was ate.

On the morning of the 31st of July, 1798, the French were masters of Egypt, Corfu, and Malta; thirty vessels of the line united these possessions with France, and rendered the whole one empire. England, meanwhile, was cruizing in the Mediterranean with numerous fleets, for which she could not procure provisions but at an enormous expence.

Feeling all the advantage of this situation, Bonaparte, in order to preserve it, offered a reward of two thousand zeckins for the discovery of a mode to bring the fleet into the port of Alexandria, and a passage into the old port was found. The admiral shut himself up at Abukir.

Chance led M. Denon and his companions, on the evening of the 31st, to the convent of Abumaudur, which terminates a pleasant promenade from Rashid, along the borders of the Nile. A little further, there is a tower, of Arabic construction, from which they observed twenty sail enter the bay of Abukir, at the distance of seven leagues. They soon attacked the French fleet.—The battle was terrible; and sustained on both sides with equal obstinacy. About ten o'clock, a strong burst of light showed a fire to have taken place in the fleet; immediately a dreadful explosion ensued, and then a profound silence. At eleven o'clock, a slow fire recommenced; at twelve, the battle was completely

completely renewed ; but at two in the morning it again ceased. At day-break, the cannonade began once more. At nine o'clock, another vessel blew up. At ten, four ships, the only ones of the French that remained entire, withdrew from the scene of action, under crowded sail.

From the top of the tower of Abu-mandur, M. Denon incessantly examined the bay with his telescope. Three days passed before he heard the real event of the first and second of August. Then he learned that the English fleet had doubled the French line, not sufficiently supported by the island which should have defended it ; that the enemy, taking the vessels of the latter one by one, by means of his double line, had rendered half its strength ineffectual, leaving it only a spectator of the destruction of the other. It was the *Orient* which had blown up at ten o'clock on the night of the 31st of July, and the *Hercules* the next morning ; the commanders of the ships the *William-Tell*, and the *Generous*, and of the frigates the *Diana* and the *Justice*, seeing the rest in the power of the enemy, took advantage of his weariness, and escaped. He learned, in short, that the business of the first of August had destroyed the power and glory of France, and bestowed the empire of the Mediterranean on her enemies.

Under the possibility of being attacked, it was now become necessary to prepare for defence. The Nile was now at its greatest height ; and M. Denon had an opportunity of observing the efforts of its weight

weight of water against the waves of the sea, which at this season are driven against the stream for twelve hours of the day by a North wind. This combat produces a bed of sand, which, gradually increased, becomes an island, and divides the river, forming two mouths, each having its shelves. The agitation of these shelves carries to the banks a part of the sand which the current had deposited; and by means of this heap, the mouths close by degrees, till the one most obstructed becomes a part of the island, while the other quickly forms a new bed, then an island, then two new mouths, and thus on continually.

The troops that were at Rosetta, had, since the loss of the fleet, been dispersed among the castles and batteries in small garrisons; it had become necessary, in order to preserve a communication between the two cities, to establish a caravan between Alexandria and Rashid, by the way of Abukir, and soldiers were employed to protect these caravans from the Arabs: there remained, therefore, too inconsiderable a number of troops at this latter place to defend it in case of attack. It was proposed, under these circumstances, to form a militia of the travellers, the speculators, the useless, fickle, wandering and irresolute men who had arrived at Alexandria, or already returned from Kaira: a large list, including epicures and debauchees who, with minds fascinated by Savary's account, had set out from Paris, in search of new pleasures at Kaira; meanwhile, the beys had withdrawn all their money and

and magnificence from Kaira ; the people had pillaged the houses ; Bonaparte did not want contractors ; and the merchant-ships were blockaded by the English ; misfortunes which, to the eyes of these travellers, cast a gloom over all Egypt. The English believing that the French were dying with hunger, sent back their prisoners, that they might hasten the period of our destruction ; published in their gazettes that half our army was in the hospitals ; that half the other half were employed in leading the blind remainder : and all this time, Upper Egypt was supplying us (says M. Denon) with plenty of the best wheat, and the Lower with the finest rice ; the sugar of the country was sold at half the price of sugar in France ; the numberless herds of buffaloes, oxen, sheep and goats, as well of the cultivators as of the Arab-pastors, sufficiently supplied the great increase of consumption at the very moment of the invasion, and promised abundance and superfluity for the future ; and, for the luxury of the table, we could add every kind of poultry, fish, game, vegetables, and fruits.

But let us turn to behold our triumphs and the peace re-open the port of Alexandria to sages, to industrious cultivators, to useful traders, and to planters.

As for our thoughtless soldiers, continues M. Denon, they derided our beaten sailors : they imagined that Murat-bey had a white camel, laden with gold and diamonds ; and nothing was talked of but Murat-bey and his white-camel. As for myself, I

had to see Upper Egypt, and our situation led me to think that my travels were at an end.

The journey in the Delta being delayed by business which pressed on general Menou, M. Denon took the opportunity of returning by land over the country which, in coming from Alexandria, he had passed by sea. He joined a caravan, in order to seek the ruins of Canopus.

The caravan reached the sea at midnight. The shore was scattered with the wrecks and the victims of the battle of Abukir. The Arabs were burning the former, in order to obtain the nails and pieces of iron they contained. The sight of the dead bodies of so many men who had fallen in the cause of their country, excited the strongest feelings of veneration and tendernefs. The caravan stopped, and M. Denon discovered that he was on the border of the lake Mahadieh, by which the plain of the desert is separated from the peninsula of Abukir.

About half a league before he reached Abukir he had seen its springs. He found three square wells, of Arabian fabric. They were surrounded by heaps that contained ruins among which were mingled immense quantities of broken pottery, and sand, driven from the desert by the winds. He came away with a persuasion, that these were the ruins of Heraclea.

He travelled the next day along the coast, to the westward, with a detachment of the caravan. After three quarters of an hour's march, he discovered, at the bottom of the bay, a little jut into the sea, composed

composed of colossal ruins. With inexpressible pleasure, he perceived a fragment of a hand, of which the first finger, fourteen inches in length, belonged to a statue of thirty-six feet in height.—The granite, the workmanship, and the style of this relique, left him no doubt that it was a remain of the remotest ages of Egyptian history. By the attitude of this hand, by the fragments which lay near it, and by the mere habit of seeing Egyptian figures, of which the design has little variety, he felt himself authorized to conclude that it had belonged to an Isis, holding a nilometer: it might have been easily brought away; but the change of place would have taken away almost all its value. Near this, were found several architectural members attested by their dimensions that they had belonged to a beautiful edifice of the Doric order. More advanced into the sea, may be observed, among the fragments of the colossus, those of a sphinx, of which, as far as the madrepores and shell fish would permit a clear discernment, the head and fore legs are separated from the trunk. It is of the style and manner of the Greeks; and the material is not granite, but a free-stone, like white marble. Its proportions showed it to have been from thirty to forty feet in length. At a further distance, there is another figure of Isis, sufficiently perfect to show the attitude in which it stood. Its legs are broke, but the pieces lie at its side. This figure is in granite, and of the height of ten feet. The fragments appear to have been thrown into the sea, to form a pier, for the preservation

vation of an edifice now destroyed, but which, judging, from the traces it has left, must have been a bath, the ground-plan of which is cut in the rock.

Returning inland, and drawing towards Alexandria, several foundations of brick are discovered, something short of a mile from this spot; and though the plan cannot be made out, some fragments of very elaborate workmanship give reason to conclude, that they have been parts of important buildings. Near these, are found many Corinthian capitals, in marble, too much worn to be measured, but which must have belonged to bases of the same material, and shafts of apparently twenty inches diameter. Further on, a number of fluted shafts of rose-coloured granite, all of the same proportions and material, and wrought with the same care, are ruins of a large and superb temple of the Doric order. M. Denon was convinced that these fragments were the ruins of Canopus, and of its temple, built by the Greeks, of which the rites rivalled those of Lampsacus: that wonderful temple in which the old were made young, and the sick recovered their health. The bath adjoining was probably one of the means employed by the priests for the performance of these prodigies.

Luxuriant as the soil formerly was, it now presents but a wild and cheerless aspect. Here M. Denon saw a shacal, which at first he mistook for a dog; this

this animal, though it is called the wolf of Africa, bears more resemblance to the fox. As it was necessary for his escort to return to the caravan, he went back to Abukir : where he found an express setting off, with dispatches which had arrived for the commander-in-chief. He took this opportunity of returning to Rashid.

The anniversary of the birth of Mohammed arrived. The French remarked that no preparations were made for celebrating this the most solemn festival of the hegirian-year. General Menou sent, towards evening, for the musti, both whose dignities and whose emoluments had been increased by the arrival of the army. It was found that this man had taken the opportunity of representing the French to the people as averse to the ceremonies of religion, insinuating that they had prohibited the rejoicings of the day. Being desired immediately to proclaim them, he said the time was now too short for the preparations ; it was replied that if that was the case, the time was still sufficiently long to put the musti in irons ; the festival was therefore within a quarter of an hour proclaimed, the town was illuminated, and songs of devotion united with those of joy and gratitude.

After supper, the French were invited to the dwelling of the chief civil magistrate. The street was the assembly room. Persons of distinction occupied an alcove, covered with carpets. Bonfires, with little lamps, and large torches, formed an illumination. On one side was martial music ; on the other

other, fingers and violins, and in the middle Grecian dancers, and attendants with sweetmeats, coffee, syrups, rose-water, and pipes.

Trifling incidents occurred perpetually to prevent general Menou's tour in the Delta, and M. Denon from executing the design of his voyage.—Obliged to give up his attention to objects immediately around him, he noticed the ease with which the several races of people which inhabited Rashid might be distinguished from each other. He believed that he clearly recognized in the Copt, the old Egyptian stock, a sort of tawny Nubian, resembling the antient sculpture of the country. He drew the heads of several of this race; among others, one of a drunken and ignorant priest, and another of an adroit acute subtle calculator.—These are the moral qualities, says he, which mark these earlier masters of Egypt.

After the Copts come the Arabs, the most numerous of the inhabitants of modern Egypt. They seem to be placed in that country to people it, to cultivate the ground, to guard the flocks, to be its animals themselves: nevertheless, they are full of fire and expression. Three very different classes of Arabs may be distinguished: the pastor, or shepherd, who seems to be the original stock; the beduin, or wanderer; and the cultivator, or husbandman, the most civilized, the most corrupted, the most enslaved, consequently the most debased, the most varied in form and character of the three.

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The Turks have a more solemn expression of countenance, united with forms of a softer contour. Their whole appearance is grave and dull ; and to speak like an artist, we may say that nothing can be made of their beauty, but the beauty of a Turk.

It is otherwise with the Greeks, who must already be reckoned among the strangers that form a sort of body separate from the original inhabitants. This nation, of all others, is the most anxious for a revolution, come from what quarter it might. On taking possession of Rashid, a young Greek approached M. Denon, kissed his shoulder, and with his finger on his lips, and without uttering a word, privately gave him a bunch of flowers, which he had brought for that purpose ; an action which seems to develop all his sensations, his political opinions, his fears, and his hopes.

Next come the Jews, who, in Egypt, as well as every where else, are hated without being feared, despised and repulsed without ever being banished. In the great cities of Egypt, they are the rivals of the Copts, as placemen in the customs, intendants of pecuniary concerns, and in short in every thing belonging to calculation, and capable of giving the means of accumulating and concealing a fortune.

The pilgrimage to Mecca causes Egypt to be crossed by all the nations of Africa who are known by the name of Maugrabins, or people of the west. It was now the period of the caravan's return. Bonaparte, who had made every exertion for its safe arrival

arrival at Kaira, had been yet unable to prevent Ibrahim-bey from getting before him to the desert, and attacking it at Belbeys. Ibrahim-bey permitted only the religious mendicants to reach Rashid, where they arrived in companies of two or three hundred each, composed of all the nations of Africa, from Fez to Tripoli. In such a state of fatigue were they now, that they all resembled each other; all as lean as the country they had traversed was sterile, and emaciated like prisoners forgotten in their chains.

M. Denon remarked that the girls, whom marriage had not compelled to wear the veil, generally resembled the Egyptian statue of the Goddess Isis; and that the women of inferior rank, who were more careful to conceal their noses and mouths than any other part of their body, frequently discovered well formed limbs. They tatoo their eyelids and chin; but this affects the countenance very little.

The journey into the Delta at last commenced. The party crossed the Nile on the afternoon of the 10th of September. It consisted of generals Menou and Marmont, twelve artists and men of learning, and a detachment of two hundred soldiers. They arrived next morning at Metubis, in the province of Garbieh.

Here general Menou had business with the shechs; therefore it was determined on not to proceed further till the morrow. Metubis is an object of learned curiosity. It is doubted whether it has
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not been built on the scite of the antient Metelis;— and, also, whether the known and tolerated licentiousness of its manners do not evince it to have succeeded Canopus; and enjoyed a similar reputation. The search after antiquities was fruitless.

The travellers visited next day some remains of antiquity of which they had been informed. They reached Koum-el-Hhamar, that is to say the *Red Mountain*, a name doubtlessly derived from the little heap of brick, of a red colour; which composes the ruin. There is nothing characteristic in it. No vestige of antiquity was discovered, notwithstanding the solicitude of general Dolomieu and M. Denon to trace the antient Metelis, the capital of a nome, or province, of the same name. The country which they perceived to the North-east, beyond Komeh-Lachma, as far as the lake of Behrehlos, was an uncultivated morass. After passing El-Alavi and Terasa, they left the wood the next day to survey some ruins which lie to the North-east. The eminence on which they stand is near Medyneh, and the ruins being, as the others, of a red colour, it is called Koum-Hhamar-el-Medynéh. Like the others, also, these ruins were only a heap of rubbish. The antiquaries had separated from the detachment, which they were to meet at Desuk, and which town they reached after travelling straight forward from Koum-Hhamar-el-Medynéh; in the course of which they passed Gabrith, a village fortified with walls and towers; as is the practice of all lying beyond Fuch, and not on the banks of the Nile. The tra-

vellers passed through Salmia, where all the effects of the French vengeance was still visible; but the countenances of the inhabitants of which did not exhibit any resentment. The remark may be considered general, that the people of the East do not preserve any rancour on account of the events of war. The Salmians, with cheerfulness and loyalty, provided a guide to Mehal-el-Malek, and the canal of Sfa'idy.

The canal of Sfa'idy is sufficiently large to carry the vessels of the Nile to the lake of Berehlos. Desuk, a considerable village, which lies within two miles of the canal, contains a mosk highly revered throughout all the East. Two hundred thousand souls go thither, through motives of devotion, twice every year. The almehs come to it from all parts of Egypt, and the greatest miracle performed by Ibrahim, thus honoured at Desuk, is that of suspending the jealousy of the Moslems, while they grant to their wives a state of freedom of which the latter are accused of availing themselves.

A palace, as it was called, had been prepared for the general, in which the entire party were lodged. This palace consisted of a court, an open gallery, on which was a room for luggage; and, at the end, the principal apartment, without a door. In the middle of the court was a sycamore. In Egypt, the shade of a sycamore must always be considered as affording a summer-chamber, or lodgings for the persons composing the household.—General Menou gave audience from the windows,

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in the manner of the beys, while the people were bringing a breakfast, supplied by the hospitality of the place.

The day following, general Menou visited the rest of the villages of the province of Garbieh.—Sanhur-el-Medyn was to be passed in this excursion, and it was said that there were a considerable quantity of ruins here. The travellers hoped to find proofs that this town was the antient Sais; once the capital, according to Strabo, of all this part of Lower Egypt. They crossed a thirsty plain, of considerable extent, which, though watered, by a thousand trenches, cut from the Nile, awaited the inundation, to be rendered fertile.

The party returned to Defuk, without having discovered any thing in the ruins of Sanhur-el-Medyn.

The next day the travellers took a direction to the North-east, and the interior of the Delta, and crossed large navigable canals, which, as they judged from the quality of the water, were supplied from the lake of Behrehlos. The banks of the canals served as a communication to the villages, which rose above the water like so many islands, with each other. They had promised themselves antiquities at Shahabas-Ammers, towards which village they approached by a narrow bank, which divided, by its meandring line, two seas of inundation. They advanced two miles before the soldiery, in order to have the more time for observation. A guide on horseback, two guides on foot, a young man of

Rashid, the generals Menou and Marmont, a physician who served as an interpreter, a draughtsman, and M. Denon, composed the foremost groupe;—Dolomieu, leading a vicious horse by the bridle, and several attendants, were at some distance behind. They were observing the beautiful and picturesque situation of Kafr-Shahabas, a suburb of Shahabas, when the interpreter riding up at full speed, exclaimed, “They are coming upon us with muskets!” The people shouted “*Erga!*” that is, “Go back!” The guides attempted to enter into explanation; but the reply was given by a discharge of musquetry, which fortunately did no injury.—Another attempt to speak was made, but a second discharge of muskets taught the travellers to preserve their horses, for these were their only resource.—Turning to retreat, they perceived another troop of enemies advancing along a road covered with water, to cut off the only way they could follow. At this moment the draughtsman, completely panic-struck, fell from his horse, on which he was no longer able to sit. It was in vain endeavoured to remount him, take him up behind another, or make him hold by the crupper. His hour was come; his senses forsook him; he cried out, without being master of any of his actions, or able to take advantage of any assistance. Those who had fired were advancing; and, to escape being surrounded, no resource was left but to gallop through the balls which were flying on all sides. They reached the second groupe, in which was Dolomieu with his
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restive horse. M. Denon had just time to tie together his bridle, now broken, and this service was instantly repaid ; for, while the latter remounted his horse, Dolomieu fell into a hole in which Denon would have been buried, but from which the former escaped because of his more than common height. Denon changed his road, and leaped a division which had been made in the bank by the enemy.— The water already overflowed the ground by which they had come, running every where in torrents. After being entirely scattered, every one reached the party in safety ; and now the whole returned, determined, in their anger, to carry Kafr-Shahabas by a *coup-de-main*. In the evening, at four o'clock, they arrived before the village. They were fired upon by forty men, entrenched behind a ditch, but without effect. The French returned the fire with like success, and the former fell back on another party, which was collected under the walls : for the French now perceived, that this suburb was a little fortress, formed of four curtains, with towers at the angles, to one of which was added a castle. This outwork was separated from Shahabas by a canal, filled with water, and an esplanade of two thousand fathom. The first attack of the French was without success. The officer ordered to execute it, was thrown from his horse into the water ; and his troop dispersed to plunder the inhabitants, who were carrying away their property. The two generals advanced, to stop the disorder and rally the troop. This movement obliged the French to pass under
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the tower, and under the fire of the enemy, and several men were consequently killed. The fortress was turned. One of the towers was not manned. The gate of this was forced; and M. Denon, with the general, and thirty foldiers, entered, when the latter's horse was shot under him, and he was thrown into a hole, whence M. Denon, with the help of general Marmont and some volunteers, who had followed, rescued him, and afforded him all the assistance in his power. The fire was violent on both sides; several of the French being killed and wounded, they were obliged to retreat. They attacked, in better order than before, the tower opposite to that of which they had possessed themselves. The enemy at first lost several men. The houses were set on fire in order to uncover the castle. The position of the French became perilous. Thirty men had been left to guard the baggage, and there were now but very few with the general. At night-fall, the besieged sent forth terrible cries, which were answered by shouts from the adjacent villages. The reinforcements soon advanced. The French permitted them to approach; and then, by a well-directed fire, soon changed the cries of war into those of the wounded. The auxiliaries effected a retreat; and presently a deputation arrived from Shahabas, which was followed by the sheeh himself, bearing the flags. This latter informed the French, that they must not hope to treat with those people with whom they were fighting, being notorious

rious robbers. A native, one of those released at Malta, acted as interpreter.

While the French were consulting on the best means of extricating themselves, before day-break, from the critical situation in which they were placed; the besieged, taking advantage of the darkness, pretended to call for and receive assistance; kept up a strong fire on their flank-side, which they wished to preserve from attack; and abandoning all their possessions to the flames, effected their retreat in silence. The French did not hear them till they took to the water. They fired on them at random; and a few of their camels which, in this emergency, they left behind, by retiring to the village, testified their flight. The military, says M. Denon, burnt every thing that would take fire. They indemnified themselves for the fatigue of the day and night, by carrying away seven or eight hundred sheep. We began our return at day-break without being impeded by any other impediments than those which had been prepared the evening before.

M. Denon finding, on his return to Rashid, that those members of the institute which had remained at that place, were ordered by the commander-in-chief to join those at Kaira, to complete the arrangement of the labours and sittings of that body, embarked with his brethren the next morning. In leaving the province of Rashid, they left the most fertile part of the Delta.

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At twenty miles on this side Kaira, they discovered the summits of the pyramids, piercing the horizon; and soon after, the Mokatam, and, opposite to this, the chain which separates Egypt from Libya, and prevents the sand of the desert from devouring the banks of the Nile.

Night came on and concealed the mountains, the pyramids, and the point of the Delta, where it had been proposed to erect a new capital. At day-break, M. Denon delighted himself with contemplating the Nile, now at its highest point of elevation, along which, at the base, as it were, of the pyramids, glided, as they passed, innumerable villages, composing, every minute, new landscapes, of which those monuments were always the object and the interest.

About nine o'clock, the report of cannon announced the neighbourhood of Kaira, and the festival of the new year, which was celebrating there.

M. Denon on arriving at the residence of the commander-in-chief, was informed that a detachment of two hundred men had just marched from Kaira, to protect a party of curious persons, who had not yet seen the pyramids. In order to take advantage of the escort, he set off after dinner for Old-Kaira, joined the party, and crossed the Nile. When he reached Jiza it was dark. He knew not where he was to rest; but resolved to watch for a time, suddenly he found himself surrounded, through the enchantment of good fortune, by
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elegant divans of velvet, in a room where the perfume of the orange-flower was brought by the zephyr that had been loaded by its spreading branches. He descended into the garden, which, by moonlight, appeared worthy of the descriptions of Savary. This was a country-house belonging to Murat-bey. He had heard it depreciated, and he saw it only after the march of a victorious army; yet he felt himself unable to deny that, if nothing be destroyed by useless comparisons, oriental enjoyments have their zest; and that it is impossible to refuse the senses the luxurious indulgence they offer.

M. Denon found a friend in the officer who commanded the escort. This gentleman made him one of the small number who were to enter the pyramids. In the morning, the journey was proceeded on, by means of the canals of irrigation. M. Denon and his companions scarcely set foot on land before they found themselves in the sands, through which they waded to the plain on which the pyramids stand. These monuments, stripped of their living scale, merely accompanied by a few figures in the front of the design, lose all the effect of their proportions and of the impression they ought to make.

Approaching them from Kaira, the first we meet with is that which is the only open one, and which is distinguished by the addition of *Chæops*. At the elevation of sixty feet from the base of this pyramid there has been discovered an entrance which the architect had concealed under the third and outermost coating of the fabric. The traveller ascends

to this entrance by a heap of rubbish. It is the opening to a gallery, sixty-five feet long, which runs towards the centre and the base of the building, without, however, extending to either. At its extremity are two slabs of granite, which, interrupting the progress of those who formerly investigated the pile, caused them to make an horizontal excavation of the mass itself, which turned out fruitless.—Returning therefore to the blocks, and cutting an ascending passage round them, of twenty-two feet in length, they discovered a second gallery, an hundred and twenty feet long. This gallery is very narrow, and so steep that, in order to ascend it, it was necessary to form a kind of steps. At its top is a landing-place, of about fifteen feet square. Here three apertures present themselves. The first is sunk in a perpendicular direction; and is called *the well*. Time, light, and ropes, are necessary in order to ascertain its depth; but the noise made by a stone, when dropped down, shows that its perpendicular direction is short. The width of its mouth is two feet by one and a half. There is an horizontal gallery an hundred and seventy feet long, on its right proceeding towards the centre of the pyramid, at the end of which is a chamber, called *the queen's*, in form of a long square, eighteen feet two inches, by fifteen feet eight inches. Its original height is uncertain; because the flooring has been dug up, and part of its sides torn down, by means of which its bottom is covered with rubbish. This chamber has no ornament; but is built of a fine calcareous

calcareous stone, and the workmanship is elaborate. If it was designed for a tomb, it is probable that the pyramid, destined to contain the corps of two persons, was not finally closed at the time of depositing the body of the first; that it was really intended for the queen; and that the two slabs of granite before mentioned were kept for that final inclosure of the whole.

After returning to the plat-form, and climbing a few feet into one of the apertures already mentioned, we discovered a large magnificent gallery of an hundred and eighty feet in length, and like the former leading to the centre of the edifice. It is six feet six inches in width; in which must be included two parapets of nineteen inches diameter; pierced, for the space of three feet six inches, in holes of twenty-two inches long and three wide. This slope was clearly designed for raising the sarcophagus;—and the holes served to assist some machine in raising this mass up a place so much inclined. The width of the gallery gradually lessens towards its top, which is effected by eight projections, each six feet high, joined to twelve feet from the floor to the first plat-band, giving a height of sixty-feet to the key of this extraordinary vault. At its top, we found a little plat-form or landing-place, and, after this, a kind of closet of granite, in the sides of which, large blocks of the same stone are dovetailed, filling the space between them. This barricade was intended to hide and defend the door of the chief sepulchre. With immense labour, howe-

ver, a breach has been effected through it, and a square door of three feet three inches discovered, which is the entrance of the royal chamber containing the sarcophagus. This chamber is sixteen feet in depth by thirty-two in width, and eighteen in height. The door in this as in the queen's chamber, is in the angle of the longest side. Near the bottom of the chamber, on the right of the door, is an insulated sarcophagus, six feet eleven inches long, three feet wide, and three feet one inch and six lines high. This tomb is a single block of granite. It is open and empty, nor is there a single vestige of its lid remaining.

Only two hours were allowed for the examination of the pyramids. M. Denon spent an hour and an half in examining the interior of the only one that is open; and returned from his journey fatigued in body and mind.

He had only time to take a general survey of the sphinx, a monument which deserves to be drawn with the most accurate care, which has never been the case. Though its proportions are colossal, its contours are as delicate as correct. The expression of the head is soft, gracious, and tranquil. The character is African; but the mouth has a sweetness in its drawing and an elegance in its execution which are truly admirable; though its lips are thick.

M. Denon was nearly a month at Kaira. In it he found an extensive population; but not a single fine street, nor a beautiful building. There is a
large

large place, with the air of a field, called *Lelbequier*, where general Bonaparte resided : this, at the time of the inundation, was very agreeable, on account of its coolness, and the parties made on it at night, in barges. The palaces of *Kaira*, encircled with walls, throw a gloom over, instead of embellishing the streets. The habitations of the poor, still more neglected here than any where else, display all the privations and negligence which the climate peculiarly permits. The orientals, strangers to all the uses of light, are very little anxious for procuring it. Generally speaking, every thing they admire is favourable to repose ; as, divans, on which one is seated, rather than laid ; garments, of which the lower parts are petticoats, by which the legs are confined ; large sleeves which extend eight inches below the ends of the fingers ; a turban with which it is impossible to bow the head ; a habit of holding in one hand a pipe with the vapour of which the brain is intoxicated, and in the other a rosary of which the beads are passed between the fingers.

The manners of such as are obliged to labour, differ very little from those of the rich. They never invent a method of doing better, nor seek for that which is invented ; and they always reject any which they are obliged to stand, a position for which they have the greatest aversion. Tradesmen of every description work sitting ; and seldom use more than one tool.

They build as little as they can help, and never repair any thing. If a wall is in danger of tumbling,
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it is left to do so. They use the other rooms in the house; and lay the ruins on one side; but when the whole building falls, they abandon the scite; or, if obliged to clear it, they carry the rubbish as short a distance as possible.

There are some considerable structures in Kaira, which probably should be attributed to the times of the khalifs, such as the palace of Joseph, the well of Joseph, and the granaries of Joseph, of which all travellers have spoken, and concerning which some have preserved the common tradition which attributes them to the prudent care of the Joseph of Potiphar. These buildings bear all the marks which distinguish every thing the Moslems have erected in this country; they are a mixture of magnificence, meanness, and ignorance.

The castle, though irregularly built, and without any real means of defence, has, notwithstanding, some parts advantageously disposed. In it the pasha is lodged, or rather confined. The only chamber remarkable in his apartments is that of the divan, where the Beys are assembled, and which has often witnessed the bloody scenes of this tempestuous government. Here, also, is seen the well of Joseph, of nearly three hundred feet in depth, cut in a rock, all the particulars of which have been given by Norden.

On leaving Kaira, we are surprized at beholding another city, built entirely of white marble, in which the edifices, composed of columns surmount-
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ed by domes, or painted palankins, sculptured and gilt, form a beautiful and cheerful assemblage.— There is nothing wanting but trees to render this funereal retreat a scene of delight.

M. Denon was making a draught of this sanctuary of the dead, when his ears were assailed by outcries. He at first supposed them to proceed from the assistants at a funeral procession, according to the custom of Egypt; but he soon saw that the women were flying instead of weeping, and that they made signs that he should follow. The idea of the scourge of the country rushed upon his mind; but having an open space before him, and seeing no Arabs approaching, here commenced his draught. Scarcely was he seated, however, before he saw men flying also; and being at some distance from the soldiery, he thought it prudent to retreat. On reaching home, he was informed that there had been a disturbance in the city, and that the commandant had been assassinated. Muskets were firing. M. Denon learned that general Caffarelli's house had been pillaged, and that several persons of the commission of arts had perished. Four members of the institute had been massacred. No information was received from Bonaparte. Night came on. The firing was partial; but cries on all sides announced a general insurrection. General Dumas, returning from pursuing the Arabs, made a great carnage among the rebels on his entering the city. He cut the head off the leader of the sedition, while he was haranguing the people. Meanwhile half the
city,

city, and that the more populous, was kept in a state of blockade by the insurgents. Four thousand citizens entrenched themselves within a mosk.—Two companies of grenadiers had been repulsed; and the artillery could not act in the narrow and winding streets. The commander-in-chief sent a party to protect the institute; but was obliged to remove it at midnight. All was quiet during the night. Next morning, however, with the first appearance of light, the war recommenced. Arms were brought to the institute, and all the members supplied themselves therewith. They appointed commanders; but every one had his own plan of operations, and no one thought it his duty to obey.—Dolomieu, Cordier, Delisle, Saint-Surion, and Denon, had apartments at some distance from the rest. The house might have been pillaged by any one that would take the trouble. Sixty men came to assist their brethren; they resolved to put themselves in such a state of defence as might enable them to hold out, if attacked by ordinary strength, four hours at least; and thus to await the assistance which their fire would necessarily bring. At one moment, they believed themselves invested. All the peaceable inhabitants were flying, and the balls were heard whistling over the terraces. These they tumbled down, in order to crush those who should attempt to force their doors. The stair-case, by which they might be reached, was in case of extremity to be made an engine of war, by which all their enemies were to be overwhelmed at once:—

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At length, the heavy artillery of the castle produced a diversion in their favour. Terror succeeded fury. The French could not batter the mosk ;—but this became the only retreat of their enemies ; and those who could not avail themselves of it begged for clemency. The mosk itself was overturned ; a battery taught the Moslems that with the French the fight would not cease with the day. The former removed their barricadoes, and attempted a fortie ;—but, on being repulsed, they surrendered. The rest of the night was quiet ; and the day following the members of the institute were released from their intrenchments.

The French had now conquered Kaira, which on their entrance only submitted to the vanquishers of the mamluks. The insensible and timid Egyptians smiled at the flight of those who had harrassed them with innumerable acts of injustice and oppression ; but they regretted their tyrants when they were called upon to repay their liberators : they returned to their first alarms, they had listened to the representations of the musli ; and, animated by a fanatic enthusiasm, formed a conspiracy in silence. A few traitors were arrested and punished ;—but the mosks, which had been the asylum of guilt, were restored : and the pride of the guilty was raised by this condescension : fanaticism was not overcome by fear ; and no danger that surrounded Bonaparte could change those virtuous sentiments by which he governed himself on this occasion : he wished to be as merciful as he might have been

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rigid; and the past was overlooked, while the French lamented numerous and important losses among their countrymen.

General Dupuis, a gallant officer, who, in the brilliant campaigns of Italy, had braved all dangers, was assassinated while on a reconnoitring party, by a knife fastened in the end of a stick, and thrown from a window; it cut the artery of his arm, and he died in a very few moments. The young and brave Sulkowsky, one of the most distinguished officers of the army, went to reconnoitre the enemy, and fell into an ambuscade. His horse, pierced with a lance, fell upon him; and he was trodden down by those who came to his assistance. Ambitious of glory, this young stranger had sought it in the warfare of the French; ardent for distinction, he pushed this passion even to jealousy; and the talk he proposed for himself manifested the extent of what was to have been expected from him.

Although the populace, a few of the great, and all the devotees, betrayed fanaticism and cruelty in the revolt of Kaira, the moderate class, that in which, in all countries, reside reason and the virtues, was perfectly humane and liberal, notwithstanding the manners, the religious system, and the language, which made strangers of the French.

The caverns of Sfakkarah had been opened, and a sepulchral chamber, containing more than five hundred ibis-mummies, discovered. M. Denon procured two of them, and could not resist the desire of opening one.

The

The pots which enclose these birds, and serve for their sarcophaguses, are from fourteen to eighteen inches high, resembling a sugar-pot; they are formed of a red common earth, and are found in great numbers at Sfakkarah, in subterranean chambers; these chambers are so dry, that the pots on being taken out appear still new.

On opening the pot and the mummy it contained, the cement which fastened its lid, and which was made only of a kind of chalk, gave way with a slight effort. The mummy of an ibis appears, at first view, like that of a new-born infant; a fine cloth, of a bister-tint, and which seems to have been soaked in an aromatic fluid, after crossing over the lower part of the body, covers the whole of one side; under this a double thread binds the mummy, horizontally and transversely, like a net; under this thread, the second envelope resembles the first, covering the body in a similar manner; below this are little bandages, an inch and an half wide, which, like the thread, are wound round the bird in every direction. When the bandages are removed, a third swathing is discovered, under which are little pellets of cloth, adapted to the inferior part, and so placed as to maintain the form of the mummy, and increase its consistence; all this taken away, the mummy assumes the figure of a pupa or chrysalis, ready to expand its wings; this last envelope, much coarser than the former, and dipped in a thicker balm, had received a colour of a deeper brown, and a substance less pliant; the form is

here somewhat visible : this envelope was opened ; but, as if the material employed had been applied in too hot a state, or that it had had some corrosive quality, it had carbonized every thing to which it had penetrated, and the bones fell into powder as soon as they were uncovered, or as soon as it was attempted to detach them from their adherence to the cloth, or to the embalming matter. This species of bird was held in veneration in Egypt, as being the destroyer of all reptiles.

Psylluses were one day introduced at the palace of the commander-in-chief ; they were asked several questions relative to the mysteries of their sect, and their connection with the serpents whom they appeared to command ; and their answers displayed more audacity than intelligence. “ Can you discover,” said the commander-in-chief, “ whether there be any serpents within this palace ? and, if there are, can you make them come out of their retreat ? ” They replied in the affirmative, and were put to the proof ; they went through the apartments, and declared that there was a serpent ; and on passing a jar placed in one of the chambers of the palace, they fell into a few convulsions, and pointed that the animal was there ; in fact, it came forth. — This was a true Comus’s trick. The French watched them, and were convinced that they were very skilful

The sect of the psylluses has existed in these countries from the remotest antiquity : they were particularly celebrated in the Cyrenaic ; the god Knuphis, according to Strabo and Eusebius, was worshipped

shipped at Elephantis under the form of a serpent.

The camels act as waggons at Kaira ; they bring all the provisions, and they carry away the filth :—the saddle-horses hold the place of chaises, the asses of coaches ; they are to be found in every street, ready bridled, and always ready for a journey. The ass, in Egypt, is spirited, active, and willing : he is the gentlest and surest animal that can be mounted ; his natural gaits are the amble and the gallop, and, without fatiguing his rider, he carries him over the great extent of ground which it is necessary to cross in passing from one part of Kaira to another.

An Arabian caravan arrived from Mount Sinai ; it brought charcoal, gum, and almonds ; it consisted of five hundred men, and seven hundred camels ; this was a very expensive mode of bringing merchandize which was to produce but very little money : but the merchants were in want of articles which they could not procure elsewhere, and had only charcoal to give in exchange.

The commander-in-chief desired that some one would take advantage of their return to obtain acquaintance with the road to Tor : M. Denon offered to undertake the journey, provided his return would be secured, for which purpose it was proposed to keep the head of the caravan as an hostage.

When the matter was mentioned to the chief of the Arabs, he declared that for all the gold in the world he would not take charge of M. Denon ;—
that

that it would be to risk the life of that gentleman, the lives of the monks of Mount Sinai, and those of all the individuals of the caravan; because two powerful tribes, the Ovatis and the Ayaidis, had vengeance to wreak on the French.—While M. Denon was giving an account to the commander-in-chief of his unsuccessful mission, the latter was giving orders respecting the departure of a convoy for general Desaix. He now requested a passport for the South; and within a few hours had begun his expedition.

At day-break, the next morning, he was within two miles of Sfakkarah, the vessel having made only eight during the night, for want of wind. He had now a distant but comprehensive view of the pyramids of Sfakkarah. Though they were at some distance from the river, he observed that the nearest, of a middling size, was composed of steps, or graduated plat-forms, making so many terraces; after these, came other little pyramids, almost levelled with the ground; there was one, at half a mile from these, which seemed to have as extensive a base as the largest of those of Jiza, but not so great an elevation; this was in very good preservation; at another mile from the last was one which was the largest of all those of Sfakkarah; it was of an irregular form, that is, its outline was waved like that of a reversed bracket: very near to this, there was a little one; and nearer the Nile, another, entirely in ruins, and which had no other form than that of a grey-brown rock; its colour arose from its material,

material, which appeared to be unburnt brick.— These pyramids, the plain of the mummies, the caverns of the ibises, all prove that the territory of Sfakkarah was the necropolis to the South of Memphis, and the opposite suburb of that where stand the pyramids of Jiza, another city of the dead, which terminated Memphis to the North, and which to this day marks the boundaries of its extent.

In the afternoon, another pyramid came within sight, opposite to Miffenda, very large, but so ruinous that in any of the other parts of Egypt, and at the great distance which it was seen from the Nile, it might have been taken for a little hill: two miles further, was another, still larger, and still more deformed.

The little islands that lay thus far up the Nile were covered with mallards, herons, and pelicans.

M. Denon saw, towards evening, the pyramid of Medun, between the villages of Rigga and Kafr-el-Risk. In the night he arrived at Saoyeh. All the buildings in this part of Egypt are formed of mud and cut straw, dried in the sun; as are also the stairs, the windows, the ovens, the utensils, and the furniture. A house built in this frail manner lasts a man's life; and this is sufficient, where the son must buy of his sovereign the soil for which his father has already paid.

On the morning of M. Denon's arrival at Sfakkarah, a party of three hundred men was ordered
out

out to levy the territorial tax, and a requisition of horses and buffaloes: the French in this adopted the custom of the Mamluks, who, for the same purpose, made military excursions, through their peculiar departments.

M. Denon was assisted by the movements of this column in examining the country and its monuments. He had a closer view of the pyramid of Medun, the entire height of what remained of which he estimated at two hundred feet.

The country over which he passed was extremely fruitful, producing wheat, sainfoin, barley, beans, lentils, and dura or sorgo, which is a species of millet, very generally cultivated in Upper Egypt.

Between Medun and Sapht were the ruins of a mosque, among which were some large columns of Cipoline marble. Possibly they may be the remains of the ancient Nicopolis, but this fact is by no means established.

The second direction of the party was to Meimund, a very rich village, surrounded, like all the others, with heaps of filth and rubbish, which form, in a flat country, so many mountains, from which all the surrounding lands may be surveyed: these are, therefore, the favourite retreats of the inhabitants, some of whom ascend them every evening to take the air, smoke their pipes, and observe whether the plain is quiet. These hills of filth spread a stench through the villages, rendering them unwholesome by confining the air, and glue together the inhabitants eyes with a dusty powder
mixed

mixed with particles of straw, and thus become one of the numerous causes of the disorders of the eyes which are endemic in Egypt.

The road was taken from Meimund to El-Ehaffer, a handsome village, seated in a pretty country :— the inhabitants gather gum-arabic by incision from a mimosa, called Egyptian thorn, or cassia, which bears small yellow and very odoriferous flowers.— Without El-Ehaffer, a dozen Arabs were encamped. The chief's tent was formed of an old woollen cloth, supported by nine stakes ; in it was all the furniture of the household, consisting of a mat, a woollen carpet, two sacks (one of wheat for the master, and one of barley for his horse), a large jar to hold clothes, a hand-mill for grinding corn, a coop for chickens, a nest for the hens to lay their eggs in, pots, coffee-pots, and cups.

On arriving at Shendaueh, those who first entered the village found the inhabitants in arms. —A misunderstanding ensued, in consequence of which some shots were fired, and several people killed ; but on an explanation taking place, all was amicably settled.

The religion of Mohammed, which reduces itself to precepts, is not sufficient for the fantastic ignorance of the Arabs ; they have, therefore, been unable to resist the inroads of heresy and the charms of idolatry : they have their saints, to whom they assign no peculiar place in paradise, where every thing is common, but for whom they erect tombs, and whose manes they revere ; and, what is very

strange, these saints never become the objects of their devotion till after they have served for laughing-stocks during their lives. They attribute to the poor in spirit, when dead, power and influence: one, as the father of light, cures disorders in the eyes; another, as the father of generation, presides over labours, &c. Squatted at the corner of a wall, the greater part of these saints have passed their lives, continually repeating the word *allah*, or Lord, and receiving without gratitude the means of subsistence; others have beat their heads with stones;—others, covered with rosaries, have chaunted hymns; others, in fine, as the fakirs, have remained motionless and entirely naked, never exhibiting the least sensation, expecting alms which they do not ask, and for which they return no thanks. Besides this idolatry, there are other kinds which have connection with magic: for example, they have a veneration for stones and trees which contain a good or a bad genius, from which, without profanation, nothing can be taken, to which domestic secrets are entrusted, and enterprizes communicated, and of which the rites are mysterious and private, though the reverence is public. At Shendaueh there was a tree of this kind, and the danger with which it had been threatened was the cause of the disturbance. This tree was extremely old. It had but one branch which bore leaves, the rest, dead and broken, were religiously preserved on the spot where they had fallen. M. Denon found locks of
hair

hair and teeth, little leather bags, and little flags fastened to it; and, close at hand, tombs, insulated stones, and a seat in the form of a saddle, over which was placed a large lamp. The locks of hair had been nailed by wives to check the inconstancy of their husbands; the teeth had belonged to those who were growing, and been consecrated on imploring the appearance of the second; miracles of the most ordinary kind, for all the inhabitants of the place had the whitest and best of teeth: the stones were votive, and the object was, that a house which was about to be built might always be inhabited by those who were going to build it; the seat was that on which the votary placed himself while addressing his nocturnal devotions, after it the lamp above it.

Desaix had been ordered to pursue Murat-bey, and complete the conquest of Upper Egypt, where the latter had taken refuge after the battle of the pyramids. He struck his camp before Kaira on the 25th of August, and set out with a flotilla that was to convoy his march.

Informed that some barks with provisions and ammunition for the mamluks were at Reshuaseh, in spite of the inundation they marched to surprize them; and after crossing eight canals and the lake Baten, where the water was up to their arm-pits, fell in with the convoy at Benaseh, routed the mamluks who were to defend it, and made it their prize. Murat had fled into the valley of Faium; Desaix rejoined his division at Abu-jairjeh, marched

to Tarut-el-shereef, where he took post at the entrance of the canal of Joseph, to effect a communication with Kaira. Arrived at Siut, from which the mamluks had fled, he endeavoured to come up with them at Beneady, whither they had retired with their women and baggage; but these having joined Murat-bey in Faium, he returned to Siut, in order to redescend to Tarut-el-shereef, where he embarked his army on the canal of Joseph. He, at last, met Murat-bey; unable to accomplish his debarkation under the fire of the enemy, he ordered those who had landed to return on board, purposing to fall down to Minkia; encouraged by this counter-march, the mamluks harrassed the barks; but were chased and dispersed by some companies of grenadiers; the debarkation effected, the troops formed into square battalions, and resumed the route to the desert, accompanied by the barks, as far as Mansura itself. Murat-bey was at four miles distance; while his rear-guard harrassed the French, he gained the heights, where they saw his army open with all the magnificence of the East. They distinguished his person with telescopes, blazing with gold and gems; surrounded by all the beys and kiashefs under his command. The French proceeded straight forward; and the splendid cavalry which they had to oppose, always irresolute in its operations, and cannonaded by the only two pieces which could follow it, turned, and fled to Elalamon. The French, in following it, left their barks; they wanted provisions, and were obliged to

to return to them for biscuit : the enemy supposed they fled ; and attacked them with cries resembling howlings : the artillery drove away the mass ; but the most resolute advanced to brave the musketry with their sabres ; they actually carried off two prisoners from the very points of the bayonets, and night alone rescued the French from their valour. On regaining the barks, the army loaded itself with biscuit, and, after taking a little rest, recommenced its march.

In the mean time Murat-bey had caused a stranger to arrive in his army with news that the English had destroyed such of the French as were at Alexandria, that the inhabitants of Kaira had massacred those who had occupied that city, in short, that there remained in Egypt only the few soldiers whom they had put to flight the evening before, and whom they should presently annihilate : in consequence, a festival was given, and in this festival there was a sham battle, in which the French were represented by Arabs, who had orders to suffer themselves to be beaten. The feast concluded with the murder of the two prisoners who had been taken two days before.

Desaix having been informed that Murat was at Sediman, resolved to commence the attack. The mamluks passed the night in carousals within their camp ; their patrols insulted the French pickets, by mimicking their language. A valley lay between the two armies, which must be passed before the French could attack their enemy. As soon as
Murat

Murat saw them in this disadvantageous position, he surrounded them on all sides, and charged them with a bravery which approached to fury. The closeness of the French body rendered the number of his men of no advantage to him. Their musquetry made great havoc, and repulsed him for the time. The mamluks stopped, wheeled as if to fly, and suddenly attacked one of the squadrons, which they completely levelled with the ground; all who were not killed by a spontaneous movement, fell down; this movement uncovered the enemy to the centre of the French; it instantly made a heavy fire: the mamluks stopped and wheeled once more. Such of the squadron as were not killed came into the ranks. The French were again attacked by the whole body, no longer with the shouts of victory but with those of rage: valour was equally manifested on either side: the French muskets were hacked by the sabres of the mamluks; their horses were drove back on their ranks, without shaking them; the animals gave way at the sight of the bayonets; their riders turned them, hoping to force the ranks by their kicks: the French, who knew that their safety depended upon their keeping together, pressed without disorder, and attacked without engaging; the carnage was general, but there was no battle: the ill-success of the mamluks had driven them wild with fury; they threw their arms which could not otherwise have reached the French; as if this battle were to have been the last, the troops were assailed

assailed with firelocks, warlike instruments, pistols, battle-axes, and showers of sabres. Those who were dismounted crept under the soldiers bayonets, endeavouring to cut their legs; even the dying collected their strength and still struggled with the dying. One of the wounded French had closed with an expiring mamluk, whom he held by the throat: "How," said an officer, "can you be guilty of any thing so shocking in your situation?" "You," replied he, "talk very well at your ease; but I have but a moment to live, and I wish to enjoy it a little."

The enemy had suspended his attack; he had made great slaughter among the French; in falling back he did not fly; and the situation of the latter was not improved; he had scarcely retired, when he opened a mask battery, which, at each discharge, carried off six or eight soldiers. The French, for a moment, were lost in consternation; the number of the wounded increased every instant. To give the word to march was to bend to the courage of the enemy, and to expose themselves to every kind of danger; to do otherwise, was to give useless extent to the evil, and to expose the whole army to destruction; if they marched, they should abandon the wounded, and to abandon them was to give them up to certain death; a circumstance shocking, in all wars, and more especially in the barbarian war they were carrying on. Distracted with the alternative, Desaix remained for a moment motionless; at length, the voice of necessity drowned that
of

of the unfortunate wounded, and the army began its march. The only choice was between victory and total destruction; this extreme situation so united the interests of all, that the army was only as one individual, and, to speak of the brave, every man of which it was composed ought to be mentioned: the light artillery, commanded by the gallant Tournerie, performed prodigies of valour;—and while this dismounted some of the guns of the mamluks, the grenadiers came up; the battery was abandoned; the cavalry, panic-struck, retreated, disappeared like a vapour, and left the French without an enemy to oppose.

Murat-bey, no longer hoping to break the lines of the infantry, or even to resist them, reduced the French army to the occupation of following a light and rapid enemy, who, in his ceaseless precaution, left it neither repose nor security. The heat of the days, and the coolness of the nights at this season, afflicted the army with sore eyes.

Defaix, anxious to collect the miri and levy horses, in the province he possessed, left three hundred and fifty men at Fatum, and set out to reduce the villages which Murat-bey had roused to arms. While he was overrunning the province, a thousand mamluks, and as many fellahs, or husbandmen, entered the town and attacked the wounded who remained there; but they were repulsed.—Defaix returned, and the whole army proceeded to Benesuef, to dispute with Murat-bey the miri of that rich province.

Defaix

Defaix having arrived at Benesuef, in order to procure the means of taking the field again, repaired to Kaira. Opposite Benesuef, on the right bank of the Nile, the Arabic chain lowers, and forms the valley of Araba, or of Chariots, terminated by Mount Kolsun, celebrated for the grottoes of the two fathers of the Cenobites, Saint Anthony and Saint Paul, the founders of the contemplative system, a system as useless to human society as pertinaciously respected by misled nations. The opening of this valley, towards the Nile, exhibits only a gloomy plain, of which but a narrow border, lying along the river, is cultivated; beyond this are perceived a few remains of villages overwhelmed by the sand.

Excursions were made, after the departure of general Defaix, to reconnoitre, and to levy contributions. The French, after a march of two hours, arrived at Dávalta, a beautiful village, that is to say, a beautiful landscape; for, it must still be acknowledged, that nature in Egypt is sometimes admirably beautiful. Here, unassisted by human industry, she plants groves of palms, under which she unites the orange, the sycamore, the oponcia, the banana, the acacia, and the pomegranate. The French reached Dindyra, where they halted for the night.

Near the town of Faium are the ruins of Arsinoe.—These and other ruins which stand at the western extremity of the lake, near the village of Kasr-

Kerun, were not visited by M. Denon ; but a plan was shown to him, which contained only a few chambers, and a portico marked with hieroglyphics.

The pyramid of Hilahon is more injured by time than the others, and seems to have been built with less magnificence ; it is composed of masses of calcareous stone, covered with unburnt bricks.

General Desaix, on the 9th of December, returned from Kaira, bringing with him two hundred cavalry, six pieces of cannon, six armed djermas, and two or three hundred infantry, by which augmentation his division was increased to three thousand infantry, two hundred horse, and eight pieces of light artillery. On the 16th, the army left Benesuef ; its column extended two miles ; all breathed joy and hope. It arrived at El-Beranka at one in the morning, and breakfasted the next day at Babel, a village remarkable only for possessing the wrist of Saint George, a relic to be earnestly recommended to every pious knight : here, the Arabic chain is so close to the Nile, that it leaves only a green edge on its banks.

The army was delayed at Miniel-Guidi by accidents which happened to the artillery in crossing the canals ; at this place, also, it received information that the mamluks were at Feshneh. While the French waited in the shade for the arrival of the artillery, a criminal was brought before general Desaix : " Here is a robber," was the cry ; " he stole two muskets belonging to the volunteers ; and was
taken

taken in the fact ;” and a beautiful boy of twelve years old was brought forward. He had received a large wound from a sabre in his arm ; he looked at it without emotion ; he conducted himself with an artless and assured air to the general, whom he immediately recognized as his judge. He was asked who advised him to steal the muskets : *Nobody* ;—what induced him to commit the robbery : *He knew not, the strong* ;—*God* ; whether he had any parents : *Only a mother, very poor, and blind* ; he was told if he would confess who had sent him, nothing should be done to him ; but that if he persisted in concealing this, he should instantly suffer the punishment he deserved : *I have told you, nobody sent me*,—*God alone inspired me* ; then, laying his cap at the feet of the general, *Here is my head, cut it off* : “ Poor little wretch,” said the general, “ let him be discharged.”

Soon after intelligence arrived that the mamluks, with an army of fellahs, were within six miles.—On approaching Feshneh, a detachment of mamluks was discovered, which disappeared when the French was within half cannon-shot of them. It was said that the main body was two miles from them, at Sasta-Elfayeneh ; but notwithstanding the general’s desire to join the enemy, the army could not reach Sasta until night, and before two hours after the mamluks had retired.

At day-break, on the 18th, the French left Sasta. The mamluks were by this time six miles distant, taking a route between the canal of Yussuf and the

desert. The French, towards evening, forded the canal, at a place where it seemed to be the lowest part of the valley, a natural receptacle of water, and not the work of art, which no where manifested itself.

News being brought to the French army that the mamluks had made an attack on the advanced-guard, it quickened its march.—Not meeting the enemy, however, it halted for the night near the village of Benashieh, in a wood of palm-trees.

On the 19th, the French were obliged, by the delays attending the artillery, to stop at Benesech.

This place was built on the ruins of the ancient Oxyrinchus, the metropolis of the thirty-third nome of Egypt: there are no remains of its former existence but a few marble columns in the molks, and a column still standing, with its capital and a part of its entablature, which shew that it formed the angle of a portico of the composite order.—Oxyrinchus, formerly a capital, surrounded by a fertile plain, about four miles from the Libyan chain, has disappeared beneath the sand; the anti-ent Benesech, beyond Oxyrinchus, has also disappeared in like manner; the new city is obliged to retreat from this scourge with the daily loss of some of its houses, and will finish by intrenching itself beyond the canal of Joseph, on the banks of which it will still be in danger. This beautiful canal seems

seems to present its flowery banks as a consolation for the horrors of the desert: where the silence of non-existence reigns in solitude over immensity.

Giving himself up to all the melancholy which the scene inspired, M. Denon perceived Defaix in the same attitude with himself, and afflicted with the same sensations.

“ My friend,” said Defaix, “ is not this an error of nature? nothing receives life; all seems to exist for the purpose of saddening and terrifying:— it seems as if Providence, after providing abundantly for the other parts of the Globe, had been suddenly deficient in an element when she wished to form this, and that, not knowing how to proceed, she had left it incomplete.” “ It is rather,” said M. Denon, “ the decrepitude of the part of the world the most antiently inhabited; it may possibly have been the abuses of human industry that have reduced it to this state!

The army recommenced its march, following the canal, which, in this part, resembles the French river called Marne. It proceeded about a mile, when it saw a considerable explosion, of which it did not hear the noise. It was conjectured to be a signal, and it was not till the next day they found it had been caused by an accidental blowing up of a quantity of powder belonging to the mamluks.— A quarter of an hour after the explosion, a convoy of eight hundred sheep was seized. The army arrived

rived too late at the village of Elfack to save it from being pillaged. Nothing was left in the houses.—The French invited the Arabian inhabitants, who had fled into the fields, to return to their dwellings; but the latter coldly replied, “What should we go home for?—do not these deserts resemble our houses?”

After leaving Tata on the 21st of December, the French crossed a field of peas, then in seed, and of barley in flower.

In the evening they arrived at Mynyeh, a large and pretty town, where there was formerly a temple of Anubis.

The mamluks had left this town, and escaped being surprized by the French cavalry, which entered in less than two hours after their retreat; they had been obliged to leave behind them five vessels, armed with ten cannon, a mortar, and a bomb; they had buried two other pieces, which were discovered to the French by several Greek deserters, who joined them.

From Mynyeh to Komeh-el-Kafr, at which latter place they slept, the country was more abundant and more fertile than any they had before passed; and the villages were so numerous and so contiguous to each other, that, standing in the middle of the plain, M. Denon reckoned twenty-four by which he was surrounded. They were not disfigured by hills of rubbish, but so planted with spreading trees, that they seemed to exhibit the pictures which travellers have

have given of the habitations in the islands of the Pacific Ocean.

The French were between Antinoë and Hermopolis at eleven o'clock the following day. M. Denon was very anxious to visit the latter, where he knew there was a celebrated portico; his satisfaction, therefore, was extreme, when Defaix proposed taking three hundred cavalry to Ashmunin, while the infantry advanced to Meloi.

On approaching the eminence on which the portico has been built, he saw it rise above the horizon, and display its towering form: he crossed the canal of Abu-Affi, and scrambling over mountains of ruins, he reached this beautiful relic of the highest antiquity.

This was the first monument that presented M. Denon with a model of the antique-Egyptian architecture, the first stones that had preserved their original order, which, without mixture or alteration, had remained four thousand years to give beholders an immense idea of the arts and of their perfection in this country.

There are parts in this architecture which, considered by themselves, or reduced into drawings, appear a little uncouth;—but, in their mass, they awe criticism: here, we dare neither adopt nor reject; but we cannot but admire the beauty of the principal lines, the perfection of the workmanship, and the disposition of the ornaments, which produce a richness when near, without taking from the simplicity that produces the great. The very great
number

number of hieroglyphics which cover all the parts of this edifice not only have no relief, but they do not cut a single line; they disappear at the distance of twenty paces, and leave the architecture all its gravity. Half buried, among the eminences, at two hundred toises from the portico, are large masses of stone, which appear to have been those belonging to an edifice of which some columns of granite, buried, and scarcely appearing above the surface, made a part: further off, but among the ruins of the great Hermopolis, a mosque is built, adorned with many columns of Cipoline marble; beyond this is the large village of Ashmunin, inhabited by nearly five thousand people. We^{re} slept at Mynyeh, which is a mile and a half from Ashmunin.

Hermopolis, or the great city of Mercury, the metropolis of the thirty-fifth nome, was built by Ithmun, the son of Misraim. To give some idea of the immense proportions of the portico of its temple, it will be sufficient to say that the diameter of its columns is eight feet ten inches; their distances the same; that of the two columns of the centre, within which the door is comprized, is twelve feet; which, together, give a hundred and twenty feet for the facade of the portico: it is sixty feet high. The architrave is composed of five stones each, twenty-two feet long; the frize the same;—the only stone which remains of the cornice is thirty-four feet. The stones are of a free-stone as
fine

fine as marble : they are joined only by the exactness of their laying. Of its outward walls or of its nave, nothing can be discovered. The shafts of the columns represent fasces, or bundles of sticks, and the base, the foot of the plant lotus, at its rising from the root. The capitals have no resemblance to any known capital ; but they hold the same station, making allowance for the gravity of the Egyptian architecture, as the capital of the Doric, in the architecture of the Greeks, and it may be said that the former is richer than the latter. On the astragal of either side of the portico, and under the roof between the two columns of the centre, are winged globes, emblems situated in the same place in all Egyptian temples. The hieroglyphics which are on the crowns of the capitals are all similar, and all the cielings are decorated with a meander formed of stars, painted of the Aurora-colour, on a blue ground.

Meloi is still a larger and handsomer town than Mynyeh ; its bason is well built, and it has a spacious house belonging to the mamluks, which might readily be fortified.

It was late when general Defaix and M. Denon reached Meloi. The latter was lodged without the walls ; and, after spending some time in discovering his way, found himself before a snug, apparently comfortable, house. The owner showed him to a chamber where he had put general Belliard to sleep, and told him he would find room in the same. He accepted this accommodation, but scarcely had he

fallen asleep, when he awoke in an agitation which made him think himself in an high fever, and heard his companion mutter, also half asleep, "I am very ill;" "I am no better," replied he: they got up, left their chamber, and, by moonlight, found each other red, bloated; and scarcely to be known, having been the prey of all sorts of vermin.

The houses of Upper Egypt are large dove-cots, in which the owner reserves only a single room for himself, in which he lodges with the hens, chickens, and all the devouring insects which beset those animals. His day is employed in the chase of these insects; and the texture of his skin is proof against their bite at night: under these impressions, their host, who really thought he had amply provided for their ease, was unable to conjecture the motives of their flight.

The French, on the 24th of December, continued their march in pursuit of the mamluks, who were always eight miles before them, devastating the country between them, and constantly illuding the pursuit of the army. In the evening, there came a deputation, with flags in sign of alliance: these were Christians from whom the mamluks had demanded a contribution of one hundred camels: and of whose camels, they had destroyed sixty, the poor people not being able to give those demanded:—this procedure having enraged the Christians, they, on their part, had killed eight mamluks, whose heads they proposed to present to the French:—
they

they all spoke at once, repeating the same expressions an hundred times.

The French passed the night at El-Ganfanieh, where they were very well accommodated in the tomb of a fanton.

They marched, on the 25th, to Mount Falut, where they received intelligence that the mamluks were at Beneady, to which place they hastened.— But their hopes were again disappointed: they found only Arabs, whom their cavalry drove into the desert. Beneady is a rich village, a mile in length, favourably situated for the commerce of the caravans of the kingdom of Fur; possessing an extensive territory, and a population always sufficiently numerous to enable it to compromise with the mamluks, and resist their extortions. It appeared necessary for the French, also, to make terms with Beneady. The friendly advances of the people were made in such a manner as to resemble conditions;— and it was thought proper to conceal the sense of the insolence of these proceedings under the mask of cordiality. Surrounded as they are by Arabs from whom they fear nothing, whose wants they supply, and of whom, in consequence, they can dispose, they have a degree of influence in the province that would embarrass every government that might be established in Egypt: they met the French, and conducted them out of their territory; and neither party wished to pass the night with the other. The French slept at Benisanet.

On the 26th, they entered Siut, which is a large well-inhabited city, built on the site of Licopolis or the city of the wolf. In it there are no antiquities; but the Libyan chain, at the foot of which it is built, contains so great a number of tombs, that there is no doubt of its occupying the place of a large antient city.

At about half a mile from Siut, are rocks hollowed into innumerable tombs, more or less great, and ornamented with more or less magnificence: this magnificence shews the antient proximity of a great city. All the inner porches of these caverns are covered with hieroglyphics, which, if the language were understood, it would require a month to read, and which, merely to copy, would employ years. M. Denon perceived, with the little light which enters by the outer door, that all the decorations used by the Greeks in their architecture, and which are commonly called Grecian, are there executed with exquisite taste and delicacy. At certain periods or festivals of the year, or at a new interment, there were celebrated some funeral functions wherein the sublimity of the ceremonies was supported by the magnificence of the place; and this is the more probable because the decorations of the interior present a striking contrast with the simplicity of the exterior, which is the natural rock.— Each tomb consists of a sort of porch, a hall which opens into two chambers, and a gallery which conducts to three other chambers. The porch, like the rest, is an excavation of the rock; the parts
wanting

wanting to complete the symmetry of its sides being supplied by stucco, still in high preservation. At the most exterior part, there is no other ornament than a torus, which borders an elliptic arch; but from this to the end of the last chamber, the whole is lined with hieroglyphics, and the ceilings are ornamented with painting and sculpture: large figures are on the sides of the entrance, and on the jambs. The third door leads to the great chamber, in which was the sarcophagus. The floor has been every where dug up.

The next morning, the French followed the canal of Abu-Affi, which is the furthestmost of Upper Egypt, and large enough to be an arm of the Nile: it shares with that flood the width of the valley which, during that day's march did not appear to be more than two miles across, but cultivated with more industry and skill than other parts of Egypt the French had previously witnessed. They found a cistern at every mile, with a little hospitable construction to supply the traveller and his horse with water. At Mid-day, the French approached the desert, where M. Denon found three objects which he had not seen before: the dum-palm, the leaf of which is like that of the racket-palm, and which has not a single stem, as the date tree has, but from eight to fifteen; its ligneous fruit is attached in bunches to the ends of its principal branches, from which spring tufts which compose the foliage of the tree; it is of a triangular form, and the size of an egg; its first envelope is spongy, and eats like the carob;

carob ; its flavour is sweet, approaching the taste of gingerbread ; under this envelope is a hard and filamentary corticel, like that of the cocoa, which fruit the whole resembles more than any other ; but it is entirely without the fine woody shell. Its pulp is tasteless. It becomes exceedingly hard, and is then made into beads for rosaries, which take a dye and polish.

The second novelty was a beautiful little bird, about the size of the lesser titmouse, which, from its form and habits, should be classed among the fly-birds. It caught insects with admirable address. Its colour is a clear and bright green ; its head and the upper part of its wings are gold-coloured ; its bill is long, sharp, and pointed ; and in its tail, one feather is half an inch longer than the rest.

A little farther on, M. Denon remarked several swallows, the colour of which was exactly that of the sand over which they flew : these swallows do not emigrate, for none of their colour are seen in Europe : they are of the species of the white-tail.

The army, after marching thirteen hours, reached Gamerissiém. The excesses of the soldiers rendered its arrival unfortunate for the village : robbed, dishonoured, and driven to extremities, the inhabitants fell upon the patrols who were sent to their assistance, but several of them were killed.

On the 28th, the army followed the desert, which is bordered by a series of villages, and spent the night in the wood near Narcetta.

On

On the 29th they crossed the desert, where they found a Coptic convent, which the mamluks had set fire to the evening before, and which was still consuming. It resembled the white convent, which had also been set on fire at the same time, but the monks of which, on their flight, had left the door open, and a few servants to save the wrecks. The red convent is so called because built of brick, and because this epithet distinguishes it from the other, which is within twenty minutes march, and which, for similar reasons, is called the white convent.

The French found only the brothers, and these covered with rags, and scarcely recovered from the agonies of the preceding evening.

The army returned to the Nile. At the moment when they were passing Minshieh, adjutant Clement brought intelligence to the general that there were mamluks in this village: they appeared only in small numbers, with their attendants;—they advanced within musket-shot to observe the French: for these to have turned their backs would have been to render themselves prisoners at once; the country was enclosed: Desaix determined to put the best appearance on his situation, and dispose his small party for resistance; he had four fusileers whom he stationed alternately in all points, so as to multiply them by their movements: he placed some ditches between himself and the mamluks;—he gained time; the advanced-guard at length appearing,

pearing, the mamluks retired. Intelligence arriving that Murat was waiting before Djirjeh for the French, Defaix flattered himself that he was about to obtain the battle which he had been fourteen days endeavouring to commence. M. Denon was dispatched to hasten the infantry: a cannon was fired to bring up the cavalry, and, within half an hour, the French were prepared for action: they marched in order of battle; but the mamluks had disappeared, and they arrived at Djirjeh without having come up with their enemies.

Should it be asked why M. Denon has not here given an account of several cities, such as Aphroditopolis, Crocodilopolis, and Ptolemais, whose antiquities it might be interesting to relate, the reader will have the goodness to recollect that he was surrounded by Arabs and mamluks, and that most probably they would have seized, robbed, and killed him if he had ventured to go an hundred paces from the army, to gratify his curiosity at Aphroditopolis.

At two o'clock in the afternoon the French arrived at Djirjeh, the capital of Upper Egypt;—it is as large as Mynyeh, and as Meloi, smaller than Siut, and less beautiful than either of the three: it takes its name from a large monastery, more antient than the city, dedicated to Saint George, which name, in the pronunciation of the country, is Djairge; the convent still exists, and contains some European monks. This city is only interesting on account of the richness of its territory, and its situation,

situation, which is equi-distant from Kaira and Syeneh. The Nile washes its buildings, and daily demolishes a part; it could not be accommodated with even a bad harbour for small vessels, without considerable expence. The French found in it a supply of provisions, at very low prices; this was not the consequence of poverty, but of abundance: for, though the wants of five thousand persons had increased the consumption and the money in circulation, during a stay of three weeks, the prices of every thing remained the same.

The French barks did not rejoin them; and they were in want of biscuit and shoes: they pitched their camp, built ovens, and even prepared a barrack for five hundred men: the army rested, and M. Denon had the advantage of easing his eyes, with the total loss of which he was threatened.

On the 2d of January, the French were informed that the country-people, seduced by the mamluks, had assembled to attack them in the rear, while the latter had promised to attack them in front. Forty insurgent villages had raised six or seven thousand men; but a charge of the French cavalry cut off twelve hundred, and convinced the rest, that their project was futile.

At Djirjeh, the French met with a Nubian prince, a brother of the sovereign of Fur, who had returned from India, and was going to join his brothers and a caravan of eight hundred Nubians of Sennaar, accompanied by a great number of women: the merchandizes which they brought

to Kaira, to exchange for coffee, sugar, shawls, cloths, lead, iron, senna, and tamarinds, were gold dust and elephants teeth. This young prince the French found full of vivacity, cheerfulness, and understanding, qualities that were visible on his countenance: his complexion was a dark brown; his eyes very fine; his nose a little prominent, but small; his mouth much flattened, but not entirely flat; his legs, like those of all Africans, thin and bowed: he informed the French that his brother was in alliance with the sultan of Burnu, that he traded with that country, and that he carried on a constant war against Sennaar; he said that from Fur to Siut was a journey of forty days, during which water could be found, either in the cisterns or the vases, only at places eight days asunder.—In the course of conversation he related that it was very cold in his country, during a part of the year; and, having no word to express ice, he said that his countrymen ate a great deal of a thing which when taken into the hand, was hard, but which escaped from the fingers after it had been held a little while.—He described the city Tombuctoo, lying to the south-west of his country, seated on the banks of a river which flows to the west, and mentioned that its inhabitants were small and civilized:—that they traded with Furese: their journey thither takes up six months. He said, further, that the sovereignty of Fur, though hereditary in the royal family was elective as to the individual; that it was the military and

and civil chiefs from among whom that son or relation of the deceased sultan was chosen whom they most approved as his successor ; and that no example had yet occurred of a civil war being produced by this practice being followed.

The French waited for the barks which ought to have followed their march, and which contained their provisions, their ammunition, and the clothing of the troops ; they had not returned, though the wind, contrary to what was usual at the season, had been constantly in their favour.

General Defaix, in order definitively to learn their fate, determined, on the 8th of January, the tenth day of their encampment at Dijirjeh, to send his cavalry to Siut ; a battalion had been sent thro' Dijirjeh to Bardis, to procure provisions ; and on the evening of this day, the officer who commanded it sent intelligence of a report that on the tenth the mamluks would march to Ho to arrive there on the eleventh ; and that they were anxious to come to battle : this news was confirmed from all parts ;—and Defaix, though unconvinced of the reality of it, reproached the barks for having deprived him of his cavalry, by which he was left without the means of profiting by his victory, if he should obtain one ;—for the infantry, alone, could only accept a battle from the mamluks, without being able to force or prolong it.

Another evil with which the French were harassed, was that of perpetual robbery every night by the inhabitants, who entered the camp like rats,

and left it like bats, almost always carrying away their prey. Some of them were surpris'd, and immediately put to death; yet, in the very night of their execution, the horses of the general's aid-de-camp were stolen: the next day the general's own horse, and they would have demolished a wall, to reach himself, if the light had not come to his succour.

On the 10th, the French were informed that Murat-bey had invited the Arabian shechs of the villages which had submitted, to march against them, and had appointed them a rendezvous at Dijirjieh. On the eleventh, the day appointed for the attack, several of these shechs sent letters assuring them of their fidelity to the treaty. Those who had agreed to join the Bey were denounced; but the cavalry had previously come up with them, and put them to the route.

On the eleventh, the French learned that there had arrived at Mecca an immense crowd of foot-soldiers to join Murat-bey, and that they were on their march to attack them.

On the twelfth, they received intelligence that their cavalry had come up with a party of people at Menshieth, and put a thousand of them to the sabre.

The army prepared to march the moment the cavalry should return, whether the barks would arrive or not; for to wait longer was only to aggravate its evils, and those to which it was obliged to expose

expose the inhabitants of its neighbourhood, by suffering the continuance of a state of warfare, uncertainty, and inorganization.

M. Denon felt the less regret for the delays of the army, as they gave him time to assuage the inflammation which preyed upon his eyes; but he shared the anxiety of Desaix, who had reckoned upon all the supplies of the convoy, the delay of which paralyzed his operations, leaving him in a state of afflicting privation: fortunately the sick and wounded were not numerous.

On the seventeenth, the cavalry returned:—it brought intelligence of the arrival of the barks, and the particulars of a battle which it had had to sustain against some mamluks and their agents, who had reported that they had destroyed the French; and that those who were seen returning were the remains, endeavouring to gain Kaira. Two thousand Arabs on horseback, and five or six thousand peasants on foot, conceiving themselves able to complete the destruction, had taken post before Tata: when the cavalry had perceived them drawn up for battle, it made a movement to form; the enemy had thought they declined the battle, and charged with his usual disorder, but gave ground at the second discharge, amazed to see the cavalry act with fire-arms like a battalion; after losing about forty of their comrades, and having an hundred wounded, they dispersed, leaving the poor infantry, which, as usual, had been sabred, and which would have been entirely

entirely destroyed, but that the night came to its assistance. The barks, at length, arrived on the nineteenth.

The French had been twenty-one days in a state of inactivity. M. Denon knew he was near Abrdiu, where Osmiandue had built a temple, and where Memnon had resided. He frequently requested Desaix to send a reconnoitring party to El-Araba, where he had been told there were ruins; but Desaix always answered that he would lead him thither himself; that Murat-bey was within two days march, that he would arrive the next day but one, that then a battle would take place, and that after this there would be nothing to engage their attention but antiquities.

On the 21st of January, the army left Dijirjeh at night-fall.

It passed before the ruins of El-Araba, and a village which it afterwards found to be called El-Besera, for, at the time of its arrival, not a single inhabitant remained to tell its name. The army left nothing but the walls, carrying away even the doors and door-posts.

The army had scarcely commenced its march, on the twenty-second, before the mamluks were perceived; they were advancing with a front of amazing extent:—the French formed in squares, two of infantry on the wings, and one of cavalry in the centre; flanked by eight pieces of artillery at the angles; in this order they advanced, following their road as far as Samanhut, a village on an eminence,
against

against which they endeavoured to support themselves. The mamluks commenced their fire and their shouts before the French had levelled their cannon. A number of volunteers of Mecca were posted in a ravin, between the village and the French, whence it fired from under cover, upon the square of the twenty-first: Desaix sent a party of infantry to dislodge them, and a detachment of cavalry to pursue them when they should retreat.—The cavalry, from over zeal, commenced its attack too soon, and with disadvantage; one of the French was killed, and another wounded; and aid-de-camp Rapp received a cut from a sabre, and would have fallen if a volunteer had not warded off four other blows which were made at him; the Meckans, however, were repulsed.

The chasseurs were sent to the village to drive out those by whom it was occupied; part of the mamluks attacked the left of the French, while others spread along their right: The French artillery was discharged on all sides at once: the mamluks made a false attack on the right; several of them were killed; a chief, struck by a bullet, had fallen too near the French to be assisted by his own party; his horse, frightened to see him hanging from his saddle, dragged him to and fro, so that the unfortunate man did not die till he had suffered the horrors of a thousand deaths.

Other chasseurs had been sent to Samanhut to dislodge those who were posted there; the latter were soon routed: in the number of the fugitives
was

was Murat, who had placed himself in reserve;— he fled towards Farshiut. This movement completely divided the enemy's force: Desaix took advantage of the circumstance, caused his troops to march on the ground which was abandoned, and ordered the cavalry to charge those who still remained on his right: in a moment, they fled into the desert, where they climbed the steep acclivity of a mountain with amazing swiftness; some of their fragglers were killed, and a few camels taken;— a small body retreated to the left: the fire ceased at mid-day; at one, no enemies were within sight. The French marched to Farshiut, which Murat-bey had already abandoned.

The mamluks pillaged this unfortunate town a few hours before their arrival. The shech was a descendant of the shechs Ammam, powerful and beloved sovereigns in the Said, who, in the beginning of the present century, reigned with justice, and defended their subjects from the harrassing of the mamluks. This latter, beaten by Murat, and reduced to a state of poverty, had expected with delight the arrival of his avengers, and prepared them a supply of biscuit: Murat, overcome, and obliged to fly, had, before he left Farshiut, sent in search of the aged prince, loaded him with reproaches, and, in his rage, cut off his head with his own hand. The French, on their arrival, completed the pillage of the magazines: the generale
was

was beat, to stop this disorder : a forced march was ordered, and commenced at midnight.

The darkness was frightful, and the cold so intense, that the troops were obliged to light fires every time they were delayed by the artillery.—General Desaix, his aid-de-camp, and M. Denon, while warming themselves at one of these fires, received a volley of musketry from behind a wall.—It was still the volunteers of Mecca who attacked them ; they were twenty in number ; eight of whom were killed, while the rest escaped by means of the darkness. These volunteers, who pretended to the distinction of nobility, wore the green turban, as descendants of the race of Aly. They employed themselves in robbing the caravans on the coast of Jidda, and actuated by a religious zeal, they took advantage of a dead season to attack an European nation which they supposed covered with gold, and came at their own risk and charge to load themselves with spoils from the French.

Armed with three javelins, a pike, a dagger, two pistols, and a carabine, they attacked with boldness, and resisted with obstinacy. M. Denon saw one of them fight, and wound two soldiers, while they held him fixed against a wall with their bayonets.

The French arrived at Ho, at one o'clock in the afternoon, from which the mamluks had retreated. One party of the Beys fled with their camels to the desert, in order to gain Esneh, while the others followed the Nile, a route which forced them to sepa-

rate. Ho is in a fine military situation, and has no remains of antiquity.

Here the French halted for a short time, and leaving it an hour before midnight, arrived at a large village, of which, says M. Denon, I have never learned the name, and at which, unfortunately for it, and to the great injury of its inhabitants, our soldiers thus wandered.

The French, at day-break, on the 24th of January, set forward. They entered the desert: at a little distance they saw a wild beast, which from its size and form, they supposed to be an hyena; they pursued it, but their horses were unable to overtake it.

The first object that presented itself on their arrival at Tintyra, was a small temple on the left of the road, the style and proportions of which were so bad that, at a distance, it seemed to be only the ruins of a mosk. Turning to the left, buried among the most dismal ruins, was a door, formed of enormous masses, covered with hieroglyphics; and, through this door, M. Denon perceived the temple.

I was too much astonished, says he, to exercise judgment; all that I had heretofore seen of architecture was not sufficient to set bounds to my admiration. This edifice appeared to me to exhibit a primæval character, a character which was that of a temple. Encumbered as it was by rubbish, the silent respect with which it impressed me, was a proof of this.

These

These edifices stand at the very edge of the desert, on the last flat of the Libyan chain, to the foot of which the inundation of the Nile extends two miles distant from its bed. The Libyan chain constitutes the back ground of the landscape. Near the ruins are a few palm-trees, the remoter production of the waters of the Nile.

The grand door of the temple opens opposite the middle of the portico, and is covered with hieroglyphics. The portico is more raised than the nave, or body, of the temple; the architecture is enriched with innumerable hieroglyphics that do not, however, injure its beautiful lines: a large cornice crowns the whole edifice; a torus, which seems to surround it, increases the appearance of the solidity of the talus which exists throughout, and serves to complete the junction, taking away the poverty of repeated angles, without destroying the precision and solidity of the whole, since this solidity shews itself where it ought, that is to say at the end of the cornices. Three sphinx-heads project from the side of the nave; and, from their form, and the holes between their paws, it is probable that they were gutters by which the water thrown upon the flat roof of the temple to cool the apartments within it was discharged;—for under the ruins of the Arabian buildings, which are still on the roof of these, are small private temples, ornamented with the most elaborate and scientific hieroglyphics.—The modern parts of those ruins were erected, no doubt, at this elevation, in order to put them out of

the reach of the Beduins, and living on this edifice as in a fortress, or rather to escape a burning soil, and seek coolness in the higher atmosphere. The quantity of Roman coin of the time of Constantine and of Theodosius, which is constantly found here in digging for nitre, seems to point out that Tintyra was still inhabited at that æra. M. Denon found Roman lamps of burnt earth, in the ruins, and little Egyptian divinities of glass and porcelain.

On the plinth of the cornice which crowns the sanctuary of the temple, there is a Greek inscription which M. Denon supposes a dedication made by one of the governors of the province for the Ptolemies: another Greek inscription, situated in the same manner over the southern door, may support this opinion. In the centre of the cornice is an head of Isis, which, every where repeated, shows that this temple was sacred to that goddess. On the entablature is a winged globe, which holds the same place in all Egyptian edifices. The columns, decorated in a peculiarly beautiful manner, produce an effect as grand as it is rich. The square part represents a temple, with a divinity under the portico of its sanctuary, which has four faces of Isis, with the ears of a cow, and the head-dress of an Egyptian woman.

The Egyptians, in their architecture, having borrowed nothing from others, have used no foreign ornament, nor any thing but what was dictated by necessity; ordonnance and simplicity have been their principles, and these they have carried to sublimity,

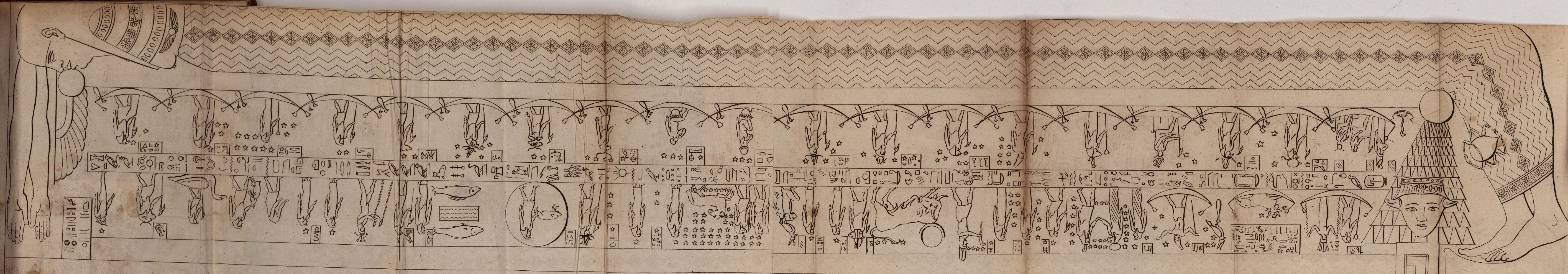
limity. It never rains in this climate; therefore nothing was wanting but plat-bands to cover and overshadow; on this account there are no pitched roofs, nor no pediments: the talus is the principle of solidity, and they use it for every part by which any thing is borne. The immortality of God was represented by the eternity of his temple. Architecture then was the art, by excellence, the art dictated by utility; this therefore might remove the doubt, if not of the primogeniture, at least of the superiority of the architecture of the Egyptians, compared with that of the Indians, because while it participated in nothing with the latter, it has yet become the basis of all that we have since admired; of all that we have thought exclusively belonging to architecture, the three Grecian orders, the Doric, the Ionic, and the Corinthian. The perfection which they have given to their animals, sufficiently proves that they had an idea of style; they have marked their character with a few lines upon a grand principle, and a system which tended to the beautiful in gravity, and the beautiful in idea, as is evident in the Sphinxes. As for the character given to the human figure, they have copied their own, which was rather agreeable than fine. The figures of women resemble their handsome women of the present day; their lines are round and plump; the nose little; the eyes long but little open, and raised at the exterior angle; the flesh of the cheeks rather full, the lips thick, the mouth wide, but smiling and gracious.

gracious. The hieroglyphics executed in three manners, are also of three kinds, and probably belong to three eras. M. Denon conceived that the most ancient are those which have only a simple outline, cut without relief, and very deep; the second, and those which have the least effect, are merely in very low relief; and the third, which seem to be of a later age, are in relief within a hollow contour.

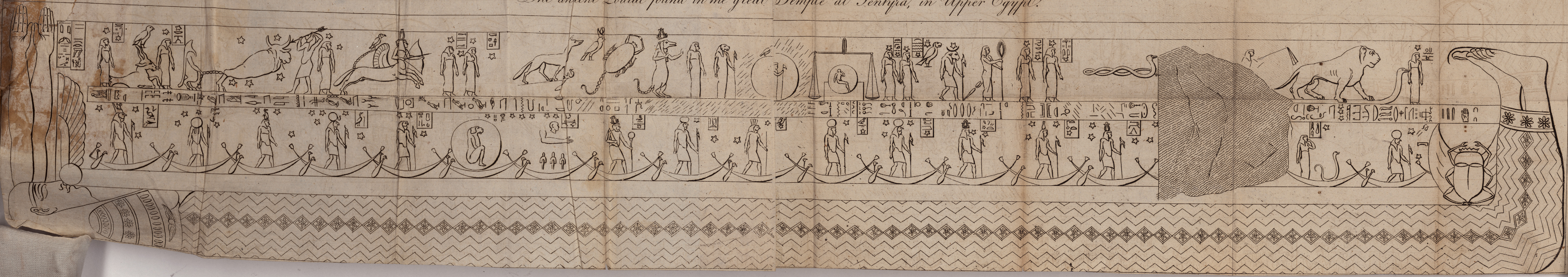
I have not words, says M. Denon, to express my feelings while I stood under the portico of Tintyra; How many ages must have been passed in bringing a nation to this degree of perfection, and sublimity in the arts. What uninterrupted power, what wealth, what wonderful resources a government must possess that could raise an edifice like this, and that could find in its nation men capable of conceiving, executing, ornamenting, and enriching it with every thing attractive to the eyes, and to the mind. Nothing could be more complete, or more perfect, than Tintyra. M. Denon was agitated by the multiplicity of objects, astonished at their novelty, and tormented by the fear that he should not see them again.

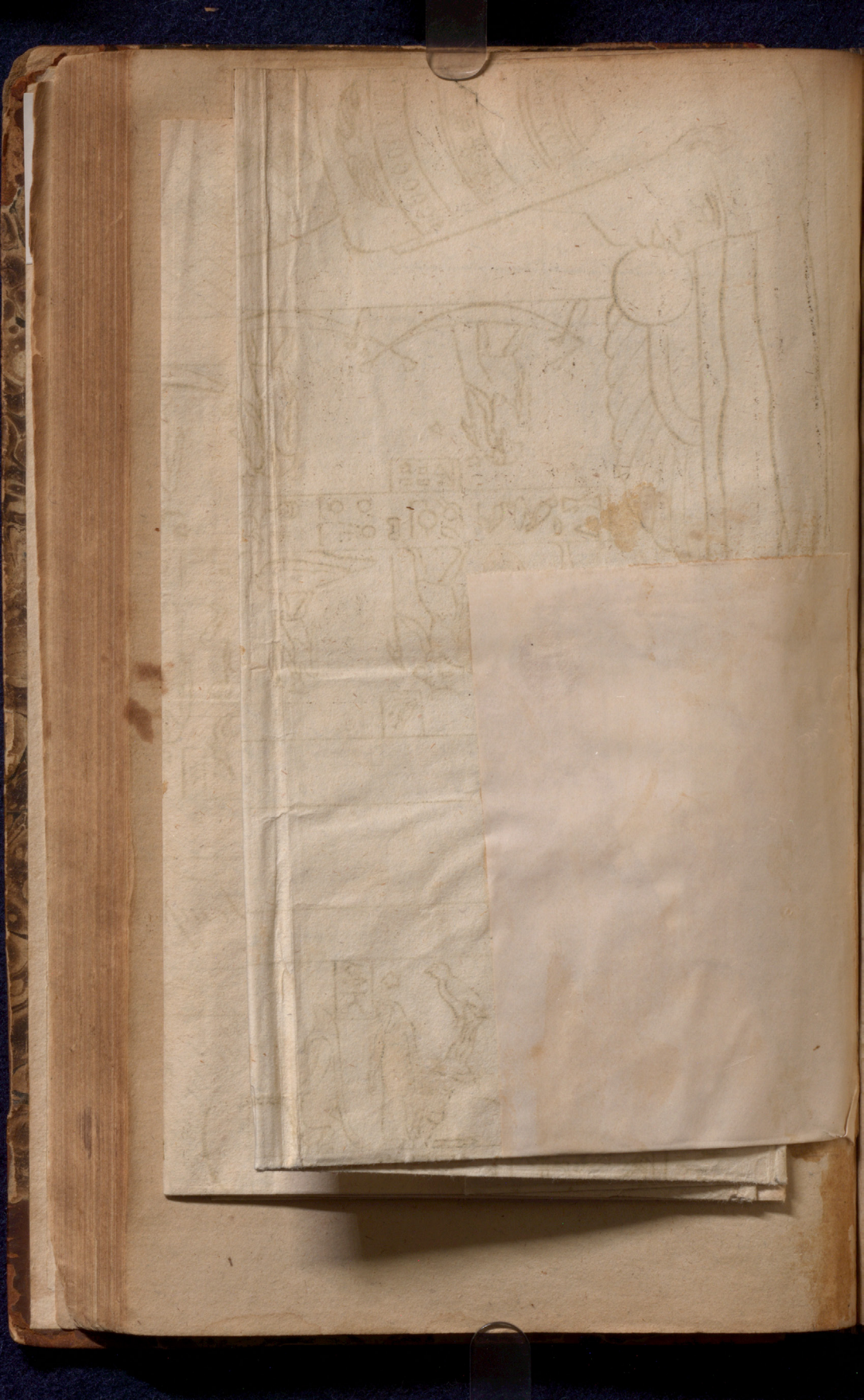
On the ceilings he had seen represented, in the most tasteful order, planetary systems, zodiacs,* and celestial planispheres; on the walls, representations of the rites of Egyptian worship, the proceedings in agriculture, and the arts, and moral and religious precepts. Under the ruins of the Arabian fabrics, on the roof of the temple, he discovered a small apartment, containing a celestial planisphere. He had

* See the Plate annexed.



The ancient Zodiac found in the great Temple at Tentyra, in Upper Egypt.





had entered this chamber, before he perceived with the imperfect light, that he was alone with general Belliard, with whom he was obliged at full gallop to follow the division.

The army reached Dindera, a place at about the distance of a mile and an half from Tintyra, where it was to sleep. Every officer and soldier, not prevented by his duty, had delighted himself by a visit to Tintyra.

On the twenty-fifth, M. Denon discovered a number of large dum palm-trees, gigantic tamarind trees, villages a mile and an half long, and ground which, though it had been inundated, was left uncultivated. In the afternoon, among a number of mallards, a crocodile was discovered lying asleep, eighteen feet long: three muskets were fired at him without taking effect.

Intelligence was brought to the French that a party of mamluks had passed the right bank of the river, and that another had marched towards Esneh and Syeneh. Defaix sent his cavalry at midnight to intercept the latter.

The French began their march, on the 26th, at two in the morning. At nine, turning the end of a chain of mountains which formed a promontory, they suddenly beheld the seat of the antique Thebes, in all its developement. This city, stiled by Homer the hundred-gated Thebes, has been celebrated by historians for a race of kings, whose wisdom has placed them in the rank of Gods, for laws which
were

were revered without being understood, and for sciences confided to pompous and ænigmatic inscriptions. This exiled city, says M. Denon, which the mind no longer discovers but through the mists of time, was still a phantom so gigantic to our imagination, that the army, at the sight of its scattered ruins, halted of itself, and grounded its arms, as if by possessing the remains of this capital, they had effected the object of its glorious labours, and completed the conquest of the Egyptian territory.

The situation of Thebes is indescribably beautiful; the extent of its ruins clearly evince that it was as great as its renown has represented: the width of Egypt not being sufficient to contain it, its extremities rest on the two chains of mountains by which it is bordered, and its tombs fill the valley to the west, far into the desert.

Four little towns divide the relics of its edifices, and the river by the meanderings of its course, would seem to be proud of flowing amidst its ruins.

About mid-day the French arrived in a desert, which was the burying-ground: the rock, cut on its inclined plane, presented, on three sides of a square, regular apertures behind which double and treble galleries and chambers have served for sepulchres. Denon and Defaix entered this place on horseback, but had scarcely committed themselves to the darkness of the galleries when they were attacked with javelins and stones by hidden enemies; their

their observations were thus interrupted, and they afterwards learned that these retreats were inhabited by a considerable part of the people of Kurnu and their flocks; that they were almost always in rebellion against authority, and were become the terror of the neighbourhood: too much in haste to form a more ample acquaintance with these people, they fled with precipitation; but returned a second time when they were fired upon; on a third occasion, they came in actual hostility to the neighbourhood; and when tranquillity was restored, they forbore to risk its disturbance by the attempt.

After leaving the field of the dead, M. Denon reached a temple, which from its decayed state, the inferiority of its execution, and the simplicity of its decorations, he judged to be of the highest antiquity. He took a sketch of it, and then, galloping after the troops, which had continued on their march, he met a second edifice more considerable than the former, and in much better preservation. Between the two was placed a statue of black granite.

This second edifice is that which it is agreed to call the Memnonium. It lies east and west, and extends to the foot of the Libyan chain. At its entrance, two square moles flank an immense gateway: on the wall of the interior are sculptured, in two low reliefs, the victorious battle of a hero; the hero is gigantic, and the enemies with whom he fights are five and twenty times smaller than himself; if this was intended as flattery, it was flattery very

falsely understood, since it must have been shameful for the hero to fight with pigmies. Near this gateway, are the remains of a vast colossus, very much broken and shattered. To give an idea of its magnitude, it will be sufficient to observe that the width of its shoulders is twenty-five feet, which gives nearly seventy-five for its height; accurate in its proportions, the style is middling, but the execution correct; having fallen on its face, the interesting part is prevented from being seen; and the head-dress being broken, it cannot be ascertained whether it was the figure of a king or of a divinity; was it the statue of Memnon or of Ossimandue?

The enclosure within which this figure stood was either a temple or a palace, or perhaps both at once; for if the low-relief correspond with a palace of a sovereign, eight figures of priests placed before two porticoes agree also with a temple. This ruin, situated on the declivity of a mountain, and never having been inhabited in latter times, is so well preserved, in all its parts yet standing, that it looks less like a ruin than an edifice which has been building, and of which the works have been suspended; there are several columns visible to their bases; the proportions are grand; but the style is nevertheless not to be compared with that of Tintyra, either for the grandeur of the whole, or for the delicacy of the execution of the parts.

The sight of two large figures drew the French into the plain. They are, no doubt, those of the
mother

mother and son of Ossimandue, whose monument the tallest of the colossuses, according to Herodotus and others, was between the two statues, but which has disappeared; time and envy having eagerly disputed its destruction, there exists only a formless rock of granite.

The figures are each formed of a single block;—they are situated upon elevated ground, and may be distinguished at the distance of ten miles. In the morning, their shadows stretch across the plain, and lie on the sides of the Libyan mountains.

M. Denon had scarcely begun to take sketches of these figures when he found that he was left alone with them. Alarmed at his situation, he hastened after his companions, who had already reached a large temple, near the village of Medinet-Abu.

To the right of and adjoining this village, at the foot of the mountain, is a small palace united with a vast temple. All that could be discovered by an hasty review, made on horseback, was that the back of the palace, which lies on the mountain, was covered with hieroglyphics, very deeply cut, and without any relief; that the temple in the fourteenth century was used as a church, two ranks of columns being added, in the style of the times, for the support of a roof. The palace is the only edifice remaining that was not built for a temple, and even this adjoins a temple. It has a raised story, square windows, small doors, a stair-case, and balconies.

On one side are buildings constructed with more ancient materials, before which are a skreen and court which have never been completed. This palace is as strongly built as the temples, and equally covered with low-reliefs.

The army proceeded to Hermontis, now called Ermenta, where M. Denon was lodged in a temple, in examining which he employed the small part of the day that remained. From the figure of Typhon or of an Anubis, which is every where in the interior, he concluded that it was sacred to this divinity, or evil genius. He is represented standing, with the belly of an hog, and with breasts like those of the elder Egyptian women in the present day.— An hundred toises to the East from the temple, is a large reservoir, lined with fine stone, and supplied with four flights of steps by which it may be descended. This reservoir receives the water of the Nile at the time of the inundation, and still retains it, notwithstanding the state of ruin into which it has fallen. Above the basin is an open flight of stairs, in good preservation, cut in an enormous block of granite. These stairs ascend to a platform, which to appearances served for a terrace to the temple which is in the rear. The sanctuary is in complete preservation; the part that has been added, and which was never finished, has experienced much more injury. The portico has never been fronted, the capitals have never been finished, and the hieroglyphics are only in an early state of performance. The sanctuary has been completely finished;

finished ; it was divided into three parts ; the first opened, by a lateral door, on a stair-case, which led to the roof ; the second was lighted through the door ; and the third was entirely without light.— Air was admitted to it only by a very low and lateral door ; this obscure apartment, nevertheless, is ornamented like all the rest.

In the same direction, at two hundred toises further, are the ruins of a church, erected in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, with the most superb Egyptian remains ; beautiful columns of granite ornamented the nave : but the whole is fallen ;— no part of it is erect but the skreen of the choir and parts of the walls of the enclosure : the edifice was too well constructed not to have withstood the elements, had it not been defaced by the hands of man.

At night, M. Denon returned, his thoughts full of the objects which had attracted his attention in so short a space of time ; he fancied that the scenes of this prolific day had been the product of a dream ; and, indeed, he would have been highly gratified for a whole month upon that which he had been compelled to employ only a few hours, and even without being certain on the morrow of a single minute for reflection.

M. Denon, on the twenty-seventh, at eight in the morning, saw a remarkably tall tamarind, planted on the banks of the Nile ; it had been undermined by successive inundations, and at last upset ;—the greater part of the upper roots had thrown out leaves ;

leaves; the old branches which it had received from the earth, and which had run into it in the fall, served for roots; so that its enormous trunk, suspended horizontally, had vegetated in every direction; a phenomenon by which it had been rendered so extraordinary an object, that the people in its neighbourhood considered it a miraculous tree.

The French, on halting, found another choking of the Nile. The Libyan chain, suddenly turning to the East, the Nile is driven upon the Arabic.— Pressed between these two obstacles, the river has overcome that which opposed the lesser resistance.— In its increase, the water has undermined and broken through a bed of gravel which it has found under the plane of the Libyan chain: the upper part, wanting a foundation, has tottered, and, in breaking loose, formed two points of rock. This rock, called Djibelin, or the Two Mountains, answers for the boundary of a division of Upper Egypt;— and, during the late government, it served for a barrier against the rebellious Beys who were banished into the Upper Said; a barrier which they could not pass without becoming outlawed. It was thus that, a short time back, Osman-bey, after being sent to Kosseir, attended by men who had private order, to kill him instead of embarking him for Mecca, whither he was sentenced to be exiled, overcame his assassins, made off with the bark, richly laden, fled into Upper Egypt, and collected a number of mam-luks sufficient to oblige Murat to treat, and to yield him
him

him the sovereignty of the whole space between Djibelin and Syneh.

Here there is the tomb of a fanton, which enjoys very high reverence, and which is reported to perform daily miracles.

After this choking of the course of the Nile, the valley expands without any thing being added to the cultivated space: immense fields, cracked by the stay of the waters, have expected in vain the loan of that which they would have restored with such high interest.

The French arrived, early on the twenty-eighth, at Esneh, the remotest village of any magnitude in Egypt. Murat-bey had been obliged to give it up on the preceding evening, a few hours before the French cavalry arrived, destroying a part of his tents, and of the heavy baggage, which would have impeded his march. They had now reason to suppose that he was resolved to leave Egypt and penetrate into Nubia, in the hopes of fatiguing and scattering their strength: the country afforded nothing to support the bulk of their army, he might hope to re-assemble his forces, and come by the way of the deserts to attack their detachments.

Esneh is the ancient Latopolis; on the banks of the Nile may be seen some remains of its port or quay, which has often been repaired, and which, well as some of the reparations that have been executed, is in a deplorable state. In the town there is the portico of a temple, the most perfect relic, perhaps,

haps, of antient architecture; it lies near the Bazar, in the great square, and would make the most matchless ornament, if the inhabitants had any notion of its merit; instead of this, they have buried it with frightful and ruinous buildings, and abandoned it to the meanest uses: the portico is in high preservation, and has great richness of sculpture; it is formed of eighteen columns with widened capitals; these columns appeared extremely beautiful, though their effect could be viewed only in the manner most disadvantageous to architecture: the hieroglyphics, in relief, with which it is covered within side as well as without, are of very elaborate execution; among the more remarkable are a zodiac, and large figures of men with crocodiles heads; the capitals, though almost all different from each other, have a fine effect;—and, what might be added as a proof that the Egyptians borrowed nothing from other nations, all the decorations of these capitals are taken from productions of the country, such as the lotus, the palm, the vine, &c. &c.

In considering those Egyptian capitals of which opportunity permitted examination, and which offered remarkable peculiarities, M. Denon expresses great astonishment that we should have believed, upon the mere authority of the people themselves, that the Greeks were the founders of architecture, and that three orders are the only truths of the art; it may be said that nothing is wanting to each of the Egyptian capitals but an history

history like that of the urn of the priestesses of Corinth to give it an equal celebrity, or, rather, that it has no want of an history similar to that of the Corinthian capital, in order to be esteemed a magnificent production. The Egyptians have copied nature; they have copied their own; and the Greeks have only added fables to the robberies which they have committed on them. Here, the calyx of a flower above a bundle of its stems, has supplied the form of a column, of its base, and of its capital; in this country, this plant expressed the inundation, it was emblematic of the entry of the Nile into their canals, of a grand blessing of nature upon Egypt; the Egyptians made it a part of the ornaments of their temples, as an homage of their gratitude to Isis, who presided over this blessing;—as goddess of the earth, they dedicated to her all its productions.

Among these significant capitals, which ornamented in an explicative manner the worship of the deity, whose temple they adorned, may be particularized one from which spring the leaves and stems of the papyrus or reed; a second, formed of the branches and leaves of the palm-tree, and the different stages of its fruit, is perhaps the grandest of all known capitals, and one which, without having in Europe that interest which attaches to it in Egypt, would still make the most elegant decorations for a banqueting or ball room; a third is formed of several calyxes of the flower of the lotus,

grouped with the leaves of the plant ; a fourth, of a bunch of the tufts of palm-trees, when, in spring-time, the branches and flowers are not yet developed, and the whole tree resembles the bud of a flower ; a fifth is artfully made up of the root of the plant lotus, its stem, and its flower alternately open and in bud ; a sixth, of branches of the vine mixed with those of palm-trees. This variety of capitals, thus richly compounded, enable us to believe the pompous descriptions which have been handed down to us of those of the temple of Solomon, which are described in the scriptures as Corinthian capitals with leaves of the palm-tree.

The head of Isis, with all her attributes, crowns the columns of the temple of Tintyra. In the temple of Hermontis, which seems to have been dedicated to Typhon, his figure is represented on a dial, which is no more than a prolongation of the column ; this branch of architecture, which appears to be peculiar to the Egyptian column, disengages the capital, hinders it from appearing to be crushed by the architrave, and exhibits so fine an effect when the eye is near the column, that it is amazing it should never have been imitated.

On the twenty-ninth, on the borders of the desert, and about a mile and a half from the river, the French found a smaller pyramid from fifty to sixty feet in base, built with rough stones, too small to have kept their places ; whence the coating is destroyed from the top to the bottom. This is the furthestmost

furthermost of the pyramids : it is situated two hundred and sixty miles from those of Jiza, and stands near a village. It is smaller than any of the structures of a similar kind, and built of more irregular masses, it has not been able to afford the same resistance to time, or rather belongs to an anterior period : shattered in all its parts, it no longer offers any other spectacle than that of an heap of stones, which, however, is seen to have been graduated and raised in a regular manner.

The families of the Arab-cultivators on the border of the desert, affords an image of that tranquil monotony which is never disturbed by the shock of a single novelty, of that calm which leaves a space of time between each event of life, of that quiet where every thing succeeds peaceably in the soul, where by degrees an emotion becomes a sentiment, or an habitude a principle, where, in short, the lightest impression is analyzed ; and this to the degree, that, in conversing with this description of men one is surprized to find in them the nicest distinctions, and the most delicate sentiment, united with the most complete ignorance.

A few fides of walls, to which they add a cover of straw, answer for their habitation. At a little distance is a dove cot, built of earth dried in the sun, and divided into compartments in the interior, for the accommodations of each brood of pigeons.—The door is circular, at the bottom of the dove cot. In the middle, is a little opening to admit the air ;

this is closed every night, to secure the colony from the shacals. Near this is the fowl-house, less elevated, and smaller, with no division therein. The hut is the chief apartment, that of the women, and that to which the men retire when they are in apprehension of a cold night. To the establishment belong dogs, who constitute no part of the family, and who live apart from it as defensive allies, a ghazal, and a kite, both of which are also free associates; the pigeons and chickens are the only domestics. The bardaks, which are drinking-pots, the ballasses, or jars for clearing the water of the Nile, and a few poringers, are almost all the utensils of the house.

The colocynthus is a plant of the desert: it germs and developes during the cool nights which succeed the inundation, and when some rains on the mountains send a little water into the plain; this plant, having spread, and its melons being completed, part of the leaves is ate by the ghazals, and the rest destroyed by the drought. Defended by its bitterness, the fruit continues till the next year, when its seeds sow themselves and perpetuate this vegetable, the most remarkable of the few that grow in the desert.

The French approached the remains of Hieraconpolis, which consist in the remains of the entrance of an edifice which, from the size of its stones, the extent of its wrecks, and the diameter of its decayed capitals, which are dispersed here and there

over

over the ground, seems to have been considerable : the stone with which Hieraconpolis has been built is so friable that the edifice has not preserved any form, and all its particulars are indistinguishable. A little further on another, still more decayed, is, with difficulty discovered : the remains of the city are no more than heaps of bricks, much burnt, and a few broken pieces of granite.

On the other side of the Nile, the French observed two hundred mamluks with their baggage, coming down : they afterwards learned that this body was composed of Elsy-bey and his followers. Approaching, they admired the grand and advantageous situation of Apolinopolis the great, overlooking the river and the whole valley of Egypt, while its superb temple rose above all, like a citadel that might command the country : an idea so naturally attached to its appearance that it is known in its neighbourhood by no other appellation than that of the fortress. Under the idea that the army would arrive late, and depart early the next morning, M. Denon rode on before the advanced-guard in hopes to reach the temple before the daylight was entirely gone. When he arrived, he had only opportunity to ride round the edifice, the magnitude, the grandeur, the magnificence, and the preservation of which exceeded all that he had yet seen in Egypt or elsewhere, and made an impression upon his mind, vast like its dimensions.— This edifice is a long suite of pyramidical entrances,
courts

courts ornamented with galleries, porticoes, and covered cellas, built not with stones, but with whole rocks. The preservation of this antient edifice contrasts in a surprizing manner with the gray ruins of the modern habitations constructed within it :—a part of the population inhabit the temple in huts, erected in the courts and on the ruins, and which, like the nests of swallows on our houses, project without hiding or disfiguring them. In short, this mixture, disagreeable at the first view, produces a picturesque contrast which gives a scale at once of the people and of time.

The country diminishes in width beyond Edfu, leaving scarcely half a mile between the desert and the river. The French halted, at noon, on the banks of the Nile. The cavalry proceeded onward ; but, when the infantry was about to commence its march, intelligence was received that the space immediately before them consisted of a desert, fourteen miles across ; and, the day being too far advanced to allow of the commencement of a march of this length, the night was spent in an abandoned village, where fortunately there was a supply of wood.

On the thirtieth, they advanced at three o'clock in the morning : after marching an hour through a cultivated country, they arrived at a mountain composed of rotten slate, freestone, white and rose-coloured quartz, brown pebbles, and some white coral. After a march of five hours in this desert, their shoes torn to pieces, the soldiers tied about
their

their feet what linen they had : they were devoured by a raging thirst ; no water was to be had but in the Nile, of which the banks were as dry as the desert : the division was harrassed, and, to reach the river, it was necessary to turn aside for a league : thirst, however, urged this procedure, and the Nile was gained, where the troops arrived in an exhausted state. The animals that carried the baggage having received no food for the preceding evening, weakened by hunger, could only follow in parcels : but what was the distress, when it became necessary to inform the soldiers that there was nothing to eat ! We looked, says M. Denon, sorrowfully on one another ; no one uttered a murmur ; but the silence, the tears, sad harbingers of despair, were still more dreadful. This terrible situation had lasted a few minutes, when a camel, carrying a light burden of butter, came up, with a few of those whose provisions had been ate. The sacks were searched to the bottom, and shaken, and enough of flour was found to give each an handful. It was proposed to make fritters, and a tree supplied firewood. Occupation banished from our mind melancholy ideas, and French gaiety renewed their courage among the troops. Lightly ballasted, they set out at a quick pace ; but their poor horses, who had not tasted the fritters, tottered under them with weakness ; it became necessary to lead them ; to support or to abandon them was indispensible ; it was necessary to march, a thing which M. Denon declared he should have

have thought impossible but for the necessity of the case.

After passing the first desert, the French found the ruins of Silsilis, which consist in fragments, bricks, and the remains of a temple, of which the highest walls do not at present rise more than three feet above the ground. The cella of the temple, covered with hieroglyphics, is still observable:— it was surrounded by a gallery, to which, in later times, a portico, without hieroglyphics has been added. The French entered the desert for the third time, followed, for several hours, by an hyena.

The rock grew granitous, with pebbles of all colours and all kinds, and of a hardness which rendered them susceptible of a brilliant polish.— M. Denon found coralines, jasper, and serpentine-stone: the sand is composed only of the inadherent primitive and constituent particles of granite.— The French ascended an elevated flat, from which they had a wide prospect of the windings of the Nile, which river, after running along the Mokatam returns to the north-west, to resume its northerly course. At this angle, there were perceptible the ruins of a pharos, which was once perhaps useful to the tortuous navigation of that part of the river; at another, there were discernible the heights of Ombos, elevating their beautiful remains of antique edifices; at the elbow of the flood, one of its branches formed an island which it inundates,
and

and on which alone, amid forty square miles of surrounding country, it bestows that blessing: the situation of this island preserved it equally from the incursions of the mamluks and the French; the inhabitants of the continent fled to it, abandoning the large village of Binban, embraced by the desert, and as gloomy as that. At this instant a scene presented itself affording a striking contrast between the most ferocious brutality and the most generous sensibility. A soldier came out of an hole, dragging with him a goat which he had found: he was followed by an old man with two suckling infants in his arms; the old man laid them upon the ground, fell upon his knees, and, without uttering a word, pointed, while he shed a torrent of tears, that his children must perish if the goat were taken from them. Blind and furly want was not stayed by the sight of this affecting picture, and the goat was instantly killed: at the same moment another soldier came up, carrying in his arms another infant, which a mother, in flying before the French, had been obliged to abandon in the desert: notwithstanding the burden with which this brave man was laden, his knapsack, his musket, his cartridges, the fatigue of a forced march of four days, the desire of saving this little unfortunate creature had made him tenderly take it up; he had carried it four miles in his arms; not knowing what to do with it in this abandoned village, he saw a single inhabitant, he saw two infants, and, without considering any thing else, he laid down

beside them the object of his solicitude, with the enthusiasm of a creature who had done a good action.

What sensations are those, adds M. Depon, produced by the display of the softer virtues amidst the horrors of war! they revive the drooping soul;—they are a glass of fresh and cool water in the midst of the desert. I had money and biscuit, says he, to give to the old man; but, incapable of doing any thing for the infants, I fled to deliver myself from the sight of a misfortune to which it was not within my power to afford any relief.

On the thirty-first, there were still a continuance of deserts to cross. The rock was alternately of granite and of free-stone, the decomposition of which formed a friable and grating crust on the surface, resembling scorixæ. In the valley, which abounds with sand, the surface is close and delicate like that of snow, so that the traces of animals are marked on it with the same facility, and that it is recognizable by what they have been crossed since the preceding wind. The traces with which they had been impressed were generally those of the antelope: these pretty animals, more timid than wild, after feeding on the banks of the river, hasten to hide their fears in the depth of the desert. M. Depon remarked with compassion, that the tracks of an animal of prey almost always followed those of this beautiful and feeble creature: the swiftness of its course does not always secure its escape from its enemy.

enemy. In the course of the day, the French saw two of these animals, the most beautiful and the most delicate of the extensive race to which they pertain.

The march was slow and irksome ; each stopping every minute to settle the covering of his feet, and to take breath : in the afternoon, M. Denon discovered in the open desert the marks of an antique road, lined on each side with large masses of cut stone, and leading direct to Syeneh. The troops were now so completely harrassed that on quitting the desert they were allowed to stop at the first place that could supply forage for their horses ; and, on recommencing the march, it appeared almost impossible to force the animals from the herbage, or to cause the soldiers to re-assume their legs. M. Denon was so completely exhausted that he remained the whole night upon the spot where he at first sat down. The next day they proceeded but a mile and a half before they rejoined the cavalry, which, in going before them, had ate up all the food of the country. At last, the army arrived at Esuan or Syeneh, the end of its march. The soldier forgot his fatigues, as if he had reached the promised land, as if, to return to a country which could feed him, he had not had to retrace the road which he had just passed with so much pain ; but the past was already forgotten, and the enjoyment of the present scarcely allowed a glimpse of the uncertain future. M. Denon thought few, however, had reason to be so much

rejoiced as himself ; since he, for the first time was about to breathe and seat himself in a country where every thing was interesting.

The first good news received was that the mam-luks had not burned the barks with which they had attempted to pass the cataracts : the French pitched their camp for the night at Contra-Esuan. The next morning, M. Denon went up to the convent of faint Lawrence, which is a bad ruin. Above this, is the Tower of the Winds, which is a gazebo, from which the most extraordinary view is discovered, no less than the waters of the Nile entering into Egypt : it is the end of the world, or, rather, it is a chaos, with the air already disengaged, and the water also beginning, by veins, to separate itself from the earth, and to promise fecundity to nature ; in truth, its first benefactions are manifested on rocks of granite, or heaps of sand and mud deposited in hollows, where they form bases for vegetation, increasing by degrees. At Elephantine, itself, the culture, the trees, and the dwellings, exhibit a picture of nature in her perfection ; the origin, no doubt, of its Arabic name, Kefiret-el-Sag, or the flower-ed isle.

The French crossed the river, on the first of February, to occupy Esuan, or Syench, which is situated on the right bank. Murat-bey had passed the cataracts, and extended himself through a long space, for the purpose of subsisting his mamluks and their horses : the French were obliged to follow a similar plan.

Defaix,

Desaix, on the third, departed with his cavalry in search of Elfy-bey, whom he had left behind him, on the right of the river. This, says M. Denon, I may say with some degree of pride, was an occasion of sorrow to us both; many and pleasant were the moments we had spent together, marching side by side, for twelve or fifteen hours at a time; we did not converse, we thought aloud; and often, after these long sittings, we said to each other: How many things shall we not have to talk of, during the remainder of our lives!—How many ideas of polity, wisdom, and philanthropy, entered his capacious mind when the sound of the trumpet and the beating of the drum ceased to fill him with the ardor of the warrior!—How many interesting notes would not his amazing memory have supplied me with at this moment! with what advantage should I not have consulted him! with what interest would he not have seen my work, which he might have esteemed as his own! In leaving me for a few moments, he has seemed as if willing to inure me by degrees to his absence.

M. Denon accompanied general Belliard, who was sent to take possession of the government of Syneh. The ruins of this place date their origin at different epochs. Those of the earliest are readily distinguished; if, as seems probable, the edifices on the right bank of the Nile and on the island of Elephantine belonged to one and the same city, this, at the epoch of their erection, must have been a considerable

derable place. The separation is made by the river, which in this place is rather deep and wide. The Arabian ruins are placed on a rock to the eastward; lower down, and in the island of Elephantine, there are some ruins of Roman edifices. To all this, in a still later epoch, has succeeded a large village, better built, and with streets more regularly disposed, than the generality of villages; a superiority which must be attributed to the presence of the stone, and of a quantity of ancient materials. In the middle is a Turkish castle, masked on all sides, and incapable of affording any defence.

The first concern of the French was to provide for their establishment. They got very excellent headquarters; these were at the house of the kiashef, built in stone, with a raised story, terraces, and vaulted ceilings; the French made beds, tables, and stools for themselves. M. Denon considered, to undress, sit down, and lie in bed, to be effeminacy, absolute voluptuousness: the soldiers had the same accommodation. The day following their establishment, the streets of Syeneh were crowded with French tailors, shoemakers, goldsmiths, and barbers, with all their insignia; and cook-shops and taverns, with settled prices. The station of an army, adds M. Denon, exhibits a picture of the most rapid developement of the sources of industry; each person exerts his whole strength for the benefit of society; but that which peculiarly marks a French army, is the establishing the superfluous at the same time and with

with the same care as the necessary : we had gardens, coffee-houses, and gaming tables, with cards made at Syeneh. At the end of the village, a row of trees lay in a North direction : here, the soldiers placed a mile-stone, with this inscription : " Road to Paris, No. eleven, one hundred and sixty-seven thousand three hundred and forty : " it was some days after a distribution of dates for the whole of their rations that they entertained ideas thus jocular, or thus philosophical. Death alone could put an end to so much bravery and cheerfulness ; the greatest misfortunes were ineffectual.

On this side of the river, there is no other remain of the Egyptian city than a small square temple, surrounded by a gallery ; and even this is so much destroyed, and so destitute of form, that nothing can be distinguished but the embrasure of two intercolumniations, with the capitals, and a small part of the entablature : this fragment is that which Savary, who acknowledges he never was at Syeneh, declares, upon hearsay, as the remains of the observatory, in which, according to him, we must look for the nilometer.

Near this ruin, among the palm-trees, are the remains of an edifice which, it is probable, must be attributed to Greek christianity : there are still two columns of granite, two door-posts of the same material, and some columns against two faces of a single pilaster, which two last remnants are overthrown.

M. Denon

M. Denon made the island of Elephantine once the scene of delight, observation, and research:— he thinks he turned every stone and examined every rock it contained. The Egyptian city and the Roman and Arabian habitations which succeeded it, were placed at the Southern part of it. The Roman occupation is discernible only by the bricks, the broken pottery, and the little deities of burnt earth, and of brass, which are still found. That of the Arabs is known only by the dung with which they have covered the earth, and which forms the general ruins of their edifices. As for the whole of those of latter times, scarcely any trace of their existence remains: all have perished before the Egyptian constructions, these being formed for posterity, and resisting, as they have, the efforts of man and of time. Amid the immense field of bricks and burnt earth which has been mentioned, a square temple of great antiquity still arises, surrounded by a gallery, with pilasters, and two columns of a portico. Two columns only, at the left angle, are wanting to this ruin. Other edifices have been added latterly: of which nothing remains but a few remnants, insufficient to point out their form, and which only answer to demonstrate that the accompaniments were much larger than the sanctuary: this latter is decorated within and without by hieroglyphics in relief, in good preservation, and elegantly executed. M. Denon drew the entire of one side of the inner part, and of which that on the other side is almost

a copy;

a copy; he also drew one side of the outer part, and a single pilaster; the rest being, in the same manner, nearly a repetition. The kind of picture which the side of the interior composes is so much the more interesting as it affords ground for discussion, and as it has an unity M. Denon had not heretofore remarked in this kind of decoration, which is generally divided into compartments. The entire of the pictures appear to represent the consecration of the temple by an hero, or sacrifices to obtain the favour and protection of the divinities. The picture on the side of the interior of the sanctuary, represents a sacrifice of wild and domestic quadrupeds, birds, fishes, flowers, and fruits; the hero who makes the offerings holds a censer in one hand and a vessel of lustral-water in the other. On an elevated altar is a bark, in which is a temple, seemingly incapable of containing that to which it is consecrated. On one side, under a kind of table of promission, are flowers of the lotus, palm-branches, and figures of Isis. On the other side, in a group, is the apotheosis or the protection granted to the hero by the two great divinities: in the picture opposite to this, the only differences are in the figure which presents the offering, and which holds, instead of a vessel of lustral-water, a group of pigeons by the wings.

It is doubtful whether this were the temple of Kneph, the good genius, or the Egyptian God who comes nearest our ideas of the Supreme Being, or whether that temple, spoke of by historians, were

not more probably the one which is situated six hundred paces further, which is in a greater state of ruin, and of which all the decorations are accompanied by a serpent, the emblem of wisdom and of eternity, and especially of the God Kneph. Comparing this latter with all the other Egyptian edifices, it appears to be of the most antient order; and it is exactly of the same kind with the temple of Kurnu at Thebes, which appears to be the most antient of that city. What is most remarkable in the sculpture of this temple is, that the figures have greater action or freedom, and the robes a greater length and better fashion. Three figures, in a low-relief, seem to thank an hero for having rescued a fifth personage, which is almost effaced, but which appears to have been prostrate. The hero seems to have killed a robber; and the three figures are either returning him thanks, or vowing fidelity. It would have been doubtful whether this piece were of Egyptian sculpture, had it not been found in the place it was. The clothing of these figures is unlike that of all others, and does not appear to be Egyptian;—and the expression in the grouping of the figures is equally remarkable. A subsequent scene of the same event appears to be described in another piece of sculpture within the same temple. In this, incense is offered to the hero: the peculiarities of the costume, and the uncommon freedom of the figures is the same. It is doubtful whether these sculptures, in which there is a sort of picturesque composition,
and

and perspective, were executed antecedent to or after the Egyptians had established laws for their figures, in order to render them, like writing, characters which, at the first view, might point out their signification, almost without requiring to be looked at. Nothing of this edifice remains but one column of the portico, and the entire of one side of a gallery, with pilasters,

In the middle of the island are two chambranles of a large outward door, formed of blocks of granite, decorated with hieroglyphics: these fragments have, no doubt, belonged to some building of great magnificence, of which a superficial digging might discover the extent. Another fragment of an edifice, very small, and very elaborate, lies to the east: it consists in the western side of a narrow chamber, or more probably of a very small temple; and what remains of the hieroglyphics is elegantly sculptured: the ornaments are surcharged with the lotus, and, among others, are the flowers of this plant, of which the withering stem seems to be revived by a figure who waters it, as in another sculpture at Latopolis. This chamber or temple communicates with a passage still narrower than itself, which, as may be concluded from a series of fabrics, ended in a gallery that opened on the Nile, and terminated by a large embankment, which protected the eastern part of the island from being injured by the force of the current of the river: of this gallery, three porticoes still remain, and a flight of

steps, in granite, which descend into the water.— M. Denon judged that this gallery, this ornamented chamber, and this flight of steps, belonged to the nilometer for which travellers have searched in vain in Syeneh. Full of this idea, he made a careful search, but was unable to discover, any mark upon the facing of the steps which could in the least resemble graduation: nevertheless, the very steps might have answered this purpose; or, the upper part being covered, the degrees might have been marked on the stones which it was not in his power to examine.

All these fabrics are situated on masses of rock, and are ornamented with hieroglyphics, sculptured with more or less care: further on, nearer to the North, are two portions of a parapet, between which is an opening, to allow of a descent into the river:— on the inner side of the portion to the right, is a bas-relief in marble, representing the figure of the Nile, four feet high, and in the attitude of a colossus which is at Rome, and which represents this same river. This copy of the same idea demonstrates that the building is Roman, that it was executed since the time when this Grecian masterpiece was carried to Rome, and that the Romans, having been capable of adding the ornaments of luxury and superfluity to constructions of the first necessity, had not merely a military station at Syeneh, but a powerful colony: this idea is strengthened by the baths and precious utensils of bronze which are still daily found there.

The

The island of Elephantine, defended to the South by shelves, is clearly much augmented to the North by alluvion: this alluvion is daily changed into cultivated ground and pleasant gardens, which, constantly watered by little furrows, produce four or five harvests a year: hence, the inhabitants are numerous, rich, and very courteous. M. Denon hailed them from the opposite bank; they came to him with their boats, and he was instantly attended by all the children, who brought and sold him relics of antiquity, and rough cornelians: with a few crowns, he made a multitude of little people happy, and their parents became his friends; they gave invitations, and provided a breakfast for him in the temple which he had come to examine: in short, he was as the benevolent proprietor of a garden wherein every thing existed in reality that is attempted to be imitated; islands, rocks, deserts, fields, meadows, gardens, thickets, hamlets, deep groves, rare and various plants, a river, canals, mills, and sublime ruins: a scene so much the more enchanting as that, like the gardens of Armida, it was surrounded by the horrors of nature, of those, in a word, of the Thebaid, the contrast with which pointed out more clearly the luxury of its charms. M. Denon never spent happier hours than those which he passed in his solitary walks in Elephantine. This island alone supplies the whole territory of the city.

The

The population of Syeneh is numerous : its commerce, notwithstanding, is reduced to fenna and dates, which two articles pay for all the wants of the inhabitants, and the support of a *kiashef*, a governor, and a Turkish garrison : the fenna which grows in the neighbourhood of Syeneh is of a tolerable good quality, and it is not sold without being adulterated with that of the desert, which is brought by the Barbarians, and which they sell for less than a hundredth part of the price which this article is sold for in Europe : no doubt several duties are levied on it in its way, and that it is one of the most material articles at the Custom-house at Kaira, and at that of Alexandria. The second article of exportation is that of dates ; these are dry and small, but produced in such quantities that, besides constituting the principal part of the food of the inhabitants, it is daily sent down the Nile, into Lower Egypt.

The French were informed by their spies that the mamluks ascended as little as possible above the cataracts, that they were laying waste both banks of the Nile, which still supplied them with a little forage ; that they then obtained flour and dates from Dahirut and Breebehs, but that the aga who resided there had sent them word that the supply would soon fail ; that they took up ten leagues of space on the one and the other bank ; that their rear-guard was only eight leagues from themselves, where they were made acquainted with every thing they did, by the same means as the latter were told of their movements,

movements, and perhaps by the same emissaries, who faithfully served either party with the same punctuality.

General Daoust had met Hassein-bey on the right bank, opposite to Edfu, when he was approaching to the Nile for water: the imminent danger of losing his baggage made him charge with fury; the desire of the cavalry to possess themselves of it, and a degree of contempt for their enemy, which they had conceived at the battle of Saman-hut, occasioned them to attack with too much negligence. This combat between two hundred cavalry on the one side, and two hundred cavaliers on the other, was rather an affray than a battle; both parties displayed unheard-of valour. The charge lasted an hour and an half; at the end of which the French became masters of the field, but Hassein-bey attained his end, that of saving his baggage: the former had forty killed, and as many wounded, the latter, twelve killed and wounded: Hassein himself was wounded in the leg.

The French went from Syeneh in search of the barks with which the mamluks had attempted to ascend: the design was to see the cataracts at the same time. Among the rocks of granite, they found the quarries from which those stupendous masses were taken, with which the colossal statues were made, which have been the object of admiration for so many ages, and the ruins of which still strike the beholder with amazement; it appears

pears as if it had been designed to record the masses which they have produced, by leaving hieroglyphical inscriptions in their place, which contain, perhaps, their memorial. The means by which these blocks were detached must have been the same as that now used for similar purposes; that is to say, there was first a cleft formed, after which the mass was separated by means of a number of wedges, struck at the same time. The marks of these operations are still so evident, that the works appear to have been stopped only yesterday. All the rocks with plane surfaces are marked with these operations, and all seem as if the workmen had left them only the evening before. This granite is so hard and so compact, that the rocks which lie in the current, instead of being worn away and destroyed, have acquired a polish from the friction of the water. The most beautiful of the granites, and that which abounds most, is the rose-coloured; the gray is frequently too brittle: veins of very brilliant quartz are found between those blocks, and beds of a red stone, the substance and hardness of which is like to those of porphyry, and other beds of that black and hard stone which has long been considered as basalt, and which the Egyptians frequently used for constructing their statues of the middle size.

At a league and an half beyond the quarries, the rocks increase, and form a sort of bar, whereat the French found the barks of the mamluks placed between the rocks, at the lowest height of the river.

In

In this place they left the little vessel in which they had arrived. Proceeding a short distance, they discovered what it is agreed to call the cataract: this is only a shelf over which the river flows amidst the rocks, constituting, in several places, cascades of a few inches in height: these falls are so very inconsiderable that they could hardly be expressed in a draught; but they would make an excellent picture, if represented with the colours by which they are characterized. The mountains, entirely set with black and sharp projections, are reflected in a sombre manner in the mirror of the waters of the river, which are confined and crossed by numerous peaks of granite that interrupt the surface, and mark them with long white lines: these rough forms and colours are contrasted by the tender green of the groupes of palm-trees dispersed here and there among the rocks, and by the azure vault of the most delightful sky in the world: this picture, well executed, would have the peculiar advantage of exhibiting at once a true representation of nature, and a striking novelty. Beyond the cataracts, the elevation of the rocks encrease, and have their summits formed of blocks of granite which appear to pyramid and balance for the formation of picturesque effects.

It is across this uncultivated and rugged landscape that the eye of the traveller suddenly discovers the grand monuments of the isle of Philoe, which form a brilliant contrast, and one that excites the greatest degree of surprize that a traveller can experience. The Nile makes a turn as if to come in search of

and embrace this enchanted island, on which the antique structures are separated from each other only by a few clumps of palm-trees, or by rocks, which seem to have been preserved only to combine the sublimity of nature with the magnificence of art, and make an assemblage of all that is most picturesque and rich. The enthusiasm which a traveller experiences on viewing the monuments of Upper Egypt may seem to the reader only a continual emphasis, a series of exaggeration; but it is only the unstudied expression of that sentiment which the richness of their character inspires.

There were no inhabitants on the Continent;—and even those of Philoe had fled, and retreated to a further and larger island, from which they sent forth wild screams, which were said to be the cries of fear: the French used every means to persuade them to send a bark which lay on their bank, but could obtain nothing. They returned, very well pleased with their journey: but this superficial view was not sufficient for objects of antiquity so important for relics so considerable, thus well preserved, and of which the particulars must be interesting.

The French were informed that the mamluks of the right bank had come to forage within two leagues of their station: four hundred of them, therefore, advanced to Philoe by land, across the desert: a route which has this peculiarity, that it has evidently been traced; it was elevated like a causeway, and, formerly, was much used: this is the only part of Egypt where a high way was absolutely necessary; here, the Nile, by means of the cataracts, suffering

suffering an interruption in its navigation, all articles of commerce from Ethiopia, which were landed at Philoe, were consequently brought by land to Syeneh, where they were embarked. All the blocks which are found on this route are covered with hieroglyphics, and appeared to be placed for the amusement of passengers. One of the more remarkable of these is in the form of a seat, which has been completed by the formation of steps up to the foot of the stool; the entire covered with hieroglyphics, most of which are highly elaborate, while others are only traced. The inscriptions are of two kinds, of which that first mentioned is engraved to the depth of an inch: they were no doubt consecrations or dedications. This extraordinary rock was perhaps consecrated to five divinities of which the figures are drawn above its inscription. It is possible that the Egyptians, always colossal in their undertakings, had designed to fix a gigantic figure on this seat.

Another peculiarity on this route are the ruins of lines formed in brick baked in the sun, the base of which is from fifteen to twenty feet in thickness: this intrenchment runs along the valley, bordering the road, and ending at the rocks and forts almost three leagues distant from Syeneh. Though these walls were constructed of a material of little value, there has been an expence in the fabrication which demonstrates the importance attached to the defence of this point: perhaps this may be the remnant of the famous wall constructed by a queen of Egypt called Zuleikha, daughter of Ziba, one of the Pharaohs,

roahs, and which reached from the antient Syeneh to the present El-A'rysh, where the fragments are denominated by the Arabs haif-el-adjuz, or the wall of the city.

The inhabitants of Philoe were now returned to their dwellings, but as unwilling as ever to receive a visit; this the French again supposed to arise from the fears they entertained, and continued their route. Beyond Philoe, the river is entirely open and navigable. After passing an Arabian fort, and a mosk of the same age, the banks of the Nile gradually became impassable; instead of a number of monuments and inscriptions, nothing was any longer to be seen but a barren landscape, with a few dwellings on the rocks, resembling the huts of savages. One of the best of these will afford, in its description, a tolerable picture of the whole: this, like all the rest, was formed of earth, with some pieces of the wood of the palm-tree, which answered for chambranles to the doors or apertures by which the inhabitants passed into the chambers or magazines, the whole being covered with faggots of Durac-straw, which is used for fuel. When the houses are without trees, and built in the rocks, they disappear to the eye as soon as the rising sun ceases to throw shadows. M. Denon has frequently, while in the midst of it, searched about at noon for a village which he had clearly seen in the morning. One of the strange sensations of the tropic is to find one's self at noon as in the centre of the light of which it is the source, and to see objects which throw no shadows, objects which flatten and cease to have apparent

rent projections, thus giving a new appearance to a whole country, the forms of which become lost or irrerecognizable.

On one side of this house was a magazine for grain of different kinds, which building was closed hermetically with a kind of stakes which were withdrawn to the number necessary, through small holes at the bottom. On one side of the door was a pigeon-house, on the other a hen-house. Necessity, which is the distributor of the situations and architecture of these houses, has given a general resemblance to all, without making any two exactly the same. On one side was the kitchen, which is always in the angle of one of the walls, in order that the fire may be sheltered from two winds, and that the inhabitants may not be annoyed with smoke by the other two. The chamber of the women can neither be entered nor inhabited but on the knees. This apartment conceals the most wretched and deformed children that can be imagined: for it appears that the Orientals increase in beauty till they are forty-five years old; and that they do not begin to be handsome till they are twenty. The date-palm and dum-palm trees constitute the only ornaments of these houses: but it is pleasing to see, in the same country, the extremes of the results of industry, man aggrandizing himself with the majesty of his palaces and the superfluous decorations which he can raise around him, and man almost reduced into the class of animals, by re-approaching nature, and contracting his desires to his wants alone.

The

The people of this country are called Goubli or of the other side, or Barabrans, which is the generic name of all the nations of Egypt that are situated on the other side the Cataracts: their costume, as far as it regards the males is complete nakedness, to which they add a morsel of woollen or cotton cloth, which they wind promiscuously round so much of their bodies as they wish to cover; their hair, which is tolerable long, though crisped, is further frizled in long curls, like the ancient egyptian figures; they anoint their head-dress with oil of cedar, of which they love the smell, and which at the same time preserves them from the annoyance of vermin, which, only for this, would lodge themselves in hair which it is impossible to comb, so as not to be removed. The women and children wear two curls at each ear, the one above, and the other underneath; necklaces with fringes made of little stripes of leather, terminated with beads of coloured glass: a girdle of the same materials and fashion, reaching half-way to the knees, is sufficient, till the time of their marriage, to tranquillize all the alarms of modesty. The women of the other side are well made, with well marked and firm muscles; they have a delicate skin, cool to the touch, and in this latter have a peculiar merit, highly valued by men with whom love is palpable, and pleasure wholly material; who calculate and estimate physical qualities, and who purchase in the women of the other side the enjoyments of summer, a provision of luxury which Europeans have hitherto extended only to their clothing: the Russians build their houses for win-

ter, and the Italians for summer; the Orientals, like the Kamtschadales, think one habitation necessary for winter, and another for seasons of ardent heat.

The French, to shorten their journey, entered a desert, cutting an angle of the Nile; and, after descending valleys for several hours, as deep as if they had been in a country subject to storms and torrents, they opened on the Nile by a ravine which led them to Tody, an insignificant village, on the banks of the river: on their approach, the mamluks had just deserted it, leaving their dishes, their kettles, and even the soup which they had prepared, and which they were going to eat as soon as the sun had set; for this was the month of ramadan, during which, the mahomedans, keeping a kind of lent, even soldiers do not eat while the sun is above the horizon.

During the night, the French sent out a spy; and early in the morning they learned that the mamluks, conceiving themselves too near even at Demmiet, at four leagues from Tody, after feeding their horses, had proceeded in their flight at midnight. The object of driving them off being gained, the French resumed their route for Syneh. I had already, says M. Denon, had enough of Ethiopia, of their Goublis, and of their women, the terrible ugliness of whom can only be compared with the furious jealousy of their husbands: I had seen some of them: as their husbands entertained less fear of me than of the soldiers, they placed a certain number of them under my protection in an hut,
before

before the door of which I stationed myself for the night. Surprized by the return of our march, they had not had time to fly or to hide themselves in the rocks, or to swim across the river; they had completely the wild, stupid look of savages. An uncultivated soil, fatigue, and want of sufficient nourishment, robs them, no doubt, of all the charms of nature, and gives, even in their youth, the appearance and haggardness of decrepitude. It would seem as if the men were of a different species, for their features are delicate, their skin fine, their countenance animated and intelligent, and their eyes and their teeth beautiful. Full of life and understanding, their language is remarkable for perspicuity and conciseness, a short expression always contains a complete answer to the question proposed: their lively character is more like that of the French than that of their fellow-orientals; they understand and execute with quickness; steal still more swiftly; and have a passion for money, which can be justified only by their extreme poverty, and compared only with their frugality. It is to all these reasons that we should attribute their meagreness, which is not occasioned by ill health; for their colour, though black, is full of life and blood, only their muscles are mere tendons: I have never seen one of them fat, or even fleshy.

VIVANT DENON'S
T R A V E L S

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT,

DURING THE OPERATIONS OF THE FRENCH ARMY UNDER
THE COMMAND OF GENERAL BONAPARTE.

ILLUSTRATED BY A CORRECT MAP OF EGYPT, ON WHICH THE ROUTE
OF THE FRENCH ARMY IS ACCURATELY DELINEATED, AND
A VIEW OF THE ANCIENT ZODIAC FOUND IN
THE GREAT TEMPLE AT TENTYRA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH,

BY RICHARD QUINTON SOMERVILLE, ESQ.

IN TWO PARTS.

PART II.

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DENON's
T R A V E L S
IN
E G Y P T.

TO keep the enemy at a distance, it was deemed necessary to famish the country. The cattle, and the harvest in the blade, were therefore bought up by the French ; and the inhabitants assisted them in carrying away what promised them provision, and followed them with all the animals they possessed. Thus leading away the whole population, they left behind them only a desert.

In returning, M. Denon was again struck with the sumptuousness of the edifices of Philoe. He is persuaded that it was to produce the effect he felt that the Egyptians brought to their frontier this effulgence of architecture. Philoe was the staple of a commerce between Ethiopia and Egypt ; and, wishing to give the Ethiopians a great idea of their resources and grandeur, the Egyptians constructed a number of beautiful edifices on their confine, on their natural frontier,

VOL. II. B which

which was Syeneh and the cataracts. The French had another parley with the inhabitants of the island: this was more explicative than the former; the people observed that, for two months together, the French had come every day, though no permission had ever been given them. It was still necessary, for once more, to receive this sort of reply; for the French were without the means of enforcing a different behaviour; but, as it would have been a bad example for a few peasants to have been insolent with impunity, at a very few paces from their station, a message was sent the next morning, with arguments calculated to produce a change of language. In short, two hundred infantry were sent, whom the people no sooner saw than they received them in a hostile manner; war was declared in the manner of the savages, with dreadful cries echoed by the women. The inhabitants of the neighbouring isle, quickly joined them, they brandished their arms like wrestlers; they were totally naked, holding in one hand a sabre, and in the other a buckler; others had match-locks and long pikes; the whole rock was immediately covered with enemies. The French assured them again, that they were not come to do them any harm, that all they asked was to enter the island as friends; they replied, that they would never give them the means, that their barks should never come for them, and that, in a word, they were not mamluks to fly before them: this defiance was supported by cries of unanimity which resounded from all parts; they were

were desirous of fighting; they had defended themselves against the mamluks; they had defeated their neighbours; and they wished to have the glory of resisting and even braving the force of the French. Immediately, orders were given to the pioneers to pull down the roofs of the huts of the main-land, in order to construct a raft: this act was a declaration of war; the people of Philoe instantly fired on the French, themselves posted and concealed in the clefts of the rocks; they poured on the French a volley of well-aimed balls: at this moment, arrived a piece of artillery, of which the sight alone exasperated their rage to the highest pitch: from this time there was no further communication between the larger isle and that of Philoe: those of the larger drove away their flocks, forced them to pass the river, and fled with them into the desert.

The palm-wood was found too heavy and that it imbibed the water; it was necessary therefore to defer the descent to the morrow; the troops took ground, and sent for what was wanting to form a raft sufficient to carry forty soldiers. This work occupied the whole of the next day; and the delay increased the insolence of the unfortunate people, who had the audacity to propose that the general should pay forty piasters for permission to go over alone, and unarmed; but the scene was wholly changed when they saw their island inundated by the volunteers, whose descent was covered by a cannon, loaded with case-shot: terror, as is usual, succeeded to ungrounded

boldness; men, women, children, all cast themselves into the stream, to save themselves by swimming; preserving the fierceness of their character, mothers drowned the children they could not carry, and disfigured the girls, to preserve them from the violence of the conquerors. When M. Denon went upon the island the next day, he found a little girl of seven or eight years old, whom a cut, inflicted with the utmost brutality and cruelty, had deprived of the means of satisfying the most urgent want, and occasioned the most dreadful convulsions: it was only by means of a counter-operation, and the use of the bath, that he was able to save the life of this unfortunate little creature, who was extremely handsome. Others, of a more mature age, showed themselves less rigid, and made choice among the conquerors.—In fine, this insular colony, found itself dispersed in a few seconds of time; with a loss, compared with its resources, immense and irreparable.

They had pillaged the barks which the mamluks had been unable to raise above the cataracts, and thus filled magazines of booty which, relatively with their neighbours, rendered them rich beyond example, and assured them wealth and repose for a number of years: in a few hours they found themselves deprived of the present and the future, passed from abundance to want, and obliged to entreat an asylum amongst the very people, against whom, a few days before, they had waged war. The emptying of the magazines
situated

situated in the larger isle, employed the soldiers all the rest of the day.

The ruins of this island, which were first examined by M. Denon, consist in a small sanctuary, preceded by a portico of four columns, with very beautiful capitals, to which there has been posteriorly added another portico, which doubtlessly belonged to the circumvallation of the temple. The most antique part, and that most elaborately executed, was very much decorated. The employment of it by christianity has destroyed its character, by the addition of two arches to the square form of the doors. In the sanctuary, near the figures of Isis and Osiris, is still seen the miraculous impression of the feet of saint Anthony or of saint Paul, the hermit.

The next day was the most fortunate of M. Denon's travels; he had seven or eight edifices within the space of three hundred toises, and, more than all, he was without the company of those impatient virtuosi who always think they have seen enough, and who never cease to press you to proceed to something else; no drums to beat a muster to a march, no Arabs, nor no peasants.

On his first voyage to the island, he began by surveying the whole interior, to reconnoitre its different antiquities, and form a general idea, a sort of topographical chart, comprizing the island, the course of the river, and the adjacent particularities. He convinced himself that this groupe of edifices was constructed at different periods,

riods, and by various nations, and has belonged to several forms of religious worship; and the union of these buildings, each of which was regular in itself, presented an irregular assemblage, equally magnificent and picturesque. The distinguished eight sanctuaries, or private temples, of more or less magnitude, built at different epochs, the former have been preserved in the construction of the latter, a practice which has destroyed the regularity of the whole. Part of the augmentations have been made only to produce an agreement with what has been anteriorly built, removing, in the most adroit manner, false squares and general irregularities. This sort of confusion in the architectural lines, which appear errors in the plan, produce picturesque effects in the elevation (for the picturesque rejects geometrical truth), multiplies the objects, forms groupes, and offers a prospect of more richness than of cold symmetry. He was convinced in Philoe of what he had observed at Tintyra and at Thebes, that the system of building was that of raising masses, upon which operations were carried on for ages in the details of decoration, commencing by architectural lines, passing posteriorly to the sculpture of the hieroglyphical figures, and finally to the stuccoes and painting. All these different epochs of labour were very visible in this island, where nothing was finished but the productions of the most remote antiquity: a part of the constructions which served to join the various buildings had never been faced, nor sculptured,

tured, nor even entirely built ; of which number was a vast and magnificent pile of a long square ; to which it would be difficult to assign a use, did not the details of the ornaments indicate that it was to have been a temple ; it has the form neither of a portico nor of a sanctuary ; the columns with which its sides are adorned, and which are enclosed to the half of their height, sustain only an entablature and a cornice, without platform or roof : it was open only at two doors which divided its length, and which had no mantle-trees. Elevated, without doubt, in the last age of Egyptian greatness, the art is here displayed in its highest degree of purity ; the capitals are of extraordinary beauty and execution, with volutes and leaves, cut as in the best days of Greece, and symmetrically diversified as at Apollinopolis ; that is to say, varied among themselves, and similar in their correspondencies, and all determined by the same parallel.

It was not without considerable difficulty, that, in imagination, he cleared the long galleries, now encumbered with ruins, followed the lines of the quays, re-elevated the sphinxes and the obelisks, and joined the communications of the slopes and stairs : attracted by the paintings and by the sculptures, he was assailed by all sorts of curiosities at once ; and, in the fear of imparting his errors to those to whom he intended to render an account of his sentiments and operations, he could have wished that it had been possible to have shown upon his plan the ruins and the medley of
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the rubbish, and on this plan to have expressed his doubts and indecisions, that with them he might have discussed the whole. What could be the meaning of this greater number of sanctuaries, &c. near to each other, and so distinct? were they consecrated to different divinities? were they votive chapels, or stations for the ceremonies of worship? The most secret sanctuaries contained others still more mysterious, monolite temples, which were tabernacles containing what there was most precious to be preserved, the most sacred of the insignia, and perhaps even the holy bird which represented the god of the temple; the hawk, for instance, which was the emblem of the sun, to which this very temple was consecrated. Under the same portico, astronomical tables and theories of the elements were painted on the cieling; ceremonies of religion, images, priests and gods, on the walls; gigantic portraits of certain sovereigns, or emblematic figures of strength and power, menacing a groupe of suppliants, whom they held by the united hair of their heads, on the side of the doors. Were these rebellious subjects? were they conquered foes? the latter opinion has this support, that figures representing egyptians are never furnished with long hair.

Outside of this large enclosure, in which these numerous temples are conjoined by the lodgings of the priests, there are two insulated temples; the greater, which has already been mentioned, and a second, the most beautiful that can be imagined, in complete preservation, and of so small dimensions

dimensions that it raises a desire to bring it away. Within side, M. Denon found an household, which appeared, to the imagination, that of Joseph and Mary, and brought into his mind the picture of A FLIGHT INTO EGYPT, composed with the utmost truth and interest. If ever an african temple be to be brought into Europe, this must be the individual chosen; besides offering every facility by the smallness of its dimensions, it would afford an existing evidence of the noble simplicity of the egyptian architecture, and become a striking example that the character, and not the extent, produces the majesty of an edifice.

Exclusive of the egyptian monuments, there are on the south-east of the island some greek and roman ruins, which appear to be remains of a small port, and of a custom-house, of which the wall of the facade is ornamented with pilasters and arcades of the doric order; some remnants of columns appear likewise, to have heretofore contributed to the composition of an open gallery; between these ruins and the egyptian monuments, there may be observed foundations of a christian church, constructed with antique fragments, mingling the cross with grecian ornaments of the lower age; for humble christianity does not seem to have ever been rich enough in these countries, wholly to separate its worship from the splendour of the idolatrous temples. After establishing its saints upon the ruins of the egyptian divinities, it frequently depicted a saint John or a saint Paul, by the side of the goddess Isis, and

metamorphosed Osiris into an Athanasius; when it left these temples, it demolished them, carrying away stones of all forms, wherewith to build its churches.

How many objects were here to be examined ! and, mean while, the time fled. The pillage of the magazines was completed, and M. Denon could not hope to return to Philoe. He had not there the good people of Elephantine ; and the troops were already worn with the siege of this small island. He left it with eyes tired by the multiplicity of objects, and a mind filled by the remembrances that were attached ; he departed at night, loaded with his booty, and his little girl, whom he carried to the shech of Elephantine, who restored her to her parents.

The isle of Philoe lies north-east and south-west, in an angle of the river ; it is about three hundred toises long, by one hundred and twenty wide. It is, generally, covered with edifices. The south-west of its upper part is occupied by a fine and very picturesque rock, the wild appearance of which, adds to its magnificence, and sets off the regular lines of the architecture of its temples.

The principal of these temples, of which a general idea has been given, is of the peripterous class. The capitals are surmounted by a quadruple head of Isis. Adjoining, is a gallery, two hundred and fifty french feet in length, with well-sculptured columns, almost all the capitals of which vary from each other. A large and magni-

magnificent door of the temple is flanked by two moles in talus, each forty-seven feet wide, and twenty-two thick; these are bordered by a torus, and surmounted by a gorge. The pannels are covered with two ranks of gigantic hieroglyphics, already described. One of four figures of priests which are on the back of the edifice, carries a bark, in which is an emblem similar to that in the lower-relief on the temple of Elephantine. On the two sides of the door there have been small obelisks in granite, of the height of eighteen feet, covered with hieroglyphics, very chaste sculptured; and before these were two sphinxes of seven feet in length, all of which are prostrate.

Another court of eighty feet in length, by forty-five in width, is flanked by two columniated galleries, behind which, on the right, is a series of cells of ten feet in depth, and, on the left, a private edifice, composed of two porticoes, and three chambers of various dimensions, communicating with each other, and opening into the porticoes. This is the only edifice of the kind which M. Denon ever met with in Egypt; it had more light than usual; it might be supposed to have been a principal apartment; its execution was very elaborate, and its effect highly picturesque. The smallest of the sanctuaries is supported, in like manner, by two other moles in talus, of a size one third of that of the former.

Before the enclosed part of the temple there is an open portico, decorated with ten columns and

eight pilasters of four feet diameter, magnificent and elegant ; the columns and walls are covered with hieroglyphical pictures, sculptured on the mass, finished with stucco, and painted. The portico, and the covered parts of the top are sculptured and painted with astronomical pictures, or with white stars upon a blue ground. The aperture produces a fine light, and one of the most elegant architectural effects : an exact picture, executed in the natural colours, would be as striking and agreeable as novel and curious ; the relief of the architecture and sculpture giving shadows to the flat tints of the painting, completes its projections ; it assumes a harmony and grandeur which excites astonishment.

This portico is succeeded by a temple of sixty feet in depth by thirty in width, divided lengthwise into four chambers, communicating by four doors, successively diminishing in height ; the first seven feet by four, the second six by four, the third five by six, and the fourth four by eight. It is very difficult to form an idea of the use of these chambers, which are very long, very lofty, very narrow, very rich, and very dark. In the most remote, there is still an altar or a pedestal, overturned, and, in the left corner, a sort of tabernacle or monolite temple, bearing, as a decoration, the door of a temple seven feet high, three wide, and two feet eight inches deep, composed of a single block of granite. There are still in the stone the holes in which were inserted the hinges of the door, which was three feet high, and

and one foot six inches wide ; a similar tabernacle is in another chamber.

These tabernacles were, it is probable, destined to enclose, either the most valuable furniture of the temple, or emblem of the god itself : in this case, the emblem could only be a reptile or bird, and the door must have been a grate, to give air to the animal, if it were a living one. M. Denon has subsequently found, upon the clothing of a mummy which has long been in the library of the french academy, and which has since past into that of the institute, the representation of one of these little temples, with a door grated and shut, another with the door open, a bird within the temple, and a man giving it food, and another, in which the keeper of the birds is watching them while they take the air : a discovery which appears to leave no doubt as to the use of these monolite sanctuaries.

After this range of edifices, the most considerable is the long square portico, of sixty four feet by forty four, with four columns in front, and five on the side. This edifice has never been finished. Its capitals are the most ingeniously composed, and the best executed, of any M. Denon saw in Egypt. The lotus is entwined with infinite grace among the volutes of the ionic and composite capital. The lotus is the ornament which prevails throughout this edifice.

The soil, in the south of the island, is cultivated and abundant. Northward, is another island, much more extensive than Philoe, and surrounded

surrounded with rocks of granite ; in a valley, among some palm-trees, is a sanctuary in a very ruinous condition ; four columns, with very elegant capitals, form its portico.

It having been projected to put Syeneh into a state of defence, engineer Garbe chose for the site of a fort, a platform on an eminence to the south of the city, by which all its avenues were commanded, and whence it would be seen by the surrounding country. There were wanting, shovels, pick-axes, hammers, and trowels ; all these were forged ; and, in the deficiency of bricks, owing to that of wood for their manufacture, all that remained of the old arabian fabrics was collected. Like the roman cohorts who once inhabited this place, the gallant twenty-first either knew no difficulties or surmounted them. Each individual made two voyages a day to transport the materials. The bastions were traced, and the works conducted with so much celerity, that, in a few days, the fortress rose above its foundations ; and, in the meantime, a roman fabric, well built and preserved, in which there was a bath, and which, by its situation, had the double advantage of protecting the river, was furnished with bastions and embattlements.

The term of the french march was inscribed on a rock on the other side of the cataracts. M. Denon took the opportunity offered by a reconnoitering party which was pushed into the desert on the right bank, to seek for the quarries spoken of by Pocock, and an antient convent of cenobites.

bites. After half an hour's march, he discovered this building, in a small valley, surrounded by rugged rocks, and by sands which their decomposition had produced. The detachment, in pursuit of its route, left him to his researches in this place.

Scarcely had the party proceeded, when his solitude began to alarm him. Lost in long corridors, the reverberated noise of his steps, under their solitary vaults, was probably the only one which, for many ages, had troubled their silence. The cells of the monks resembled the cages of animals in a menagerie; a square apartment of seven feet was illumined only by a dormer-window at the height of six: this refinement of austerity, however, robbed the recluse only of the view of a great extent of sky, an horizon of sand no less extensive, an immensity of light as melancholy and more painful than night, and which would have but increased, perhaps, the afflicting sentiment of his solitude: in this dungeon, a couch of brick, and a recess serving for a press, was all that art had added to the bareness of four walls: a turning-box, placed beside the door, still prove that these solitaries took their frugal repasts separately. A few mutilated sentences, written on the walls, were the only marks of human beings having inhabited these abodes. I imagined I beheld in these inscriptions, says M. Denon, their last sentiments, a last communication with the beings who were to succeed them, a hope which time, that effaces all, had still frustrated.

trated. I painted them to my imagination, expiring, and desirous to say a few words, which they had not sufficient strength to articulate.—Oppressed by the feelings which this melancholy series of objects had inspired me with, I walked into the court, in search of space; surrounded by lofty and embattled walls, covered ways, and the embrasures of cannon, all announced that, in this melancholy place, the storms of war had succeeded to the horrors of silence; that this building, taken from the cenobites who had raised it with so much persevering zeal, had, at different periods, afforded a retreat to vanquished parties, or an advanced post to the conquerors. The various characters of its construction, may also give the history of this building: begun in the earliest ages of christianity, all that was built by her has still preserved its grandeur and magnificence; that which war has added has been done in haste, and is now more ruinous than the former. In the court, a little church, built with unburnt bricks, attests that a small number of solitaries has returned in posterior times, and re-assumed possession: to conclude, a more recent devastation, gives reason to suppose, that it is only a few ages since the place has been wholly restored to the abandonment and silence to which nature has condemned it.

M. Denon being rejoined by the detachment, left the convent, seeming to himself to leave a tomb. With respect to the quarries, which are at a short distance, they are not those from which
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the obelisks have been cut: the obelisks are all of granite; the granite rocks are at a little distance, and are of freestone: what curiosity remains, consists in the fragments of inclined roads, on which the masses of stone were conveyed to the river, for embarkation.

The French having learned the mamluks, who fled before them to Demmiet, had taken to the desert on the right, and determined to join Hafein-bey; that Murat-bey had collected all the provisions which the upper country could supply, and retrograded the desert on the left, leaving behind only old Soliman, who held Breebis with eighty mamluks; and having nothing further to do at Syeneh, they left that place on the twenty-fifth day of February. M. Denon would have remained another fortnight, but he had reason to fear the arrival of the hot-winds of spring, the shock of which he had already so painfully experienced: three days of easterly wind in January had made the atmosphere resemble that of the european dog-days; and to this succeeded a wind from the north, so cold, that in four hours it afflicted him with a fever. Solicitous for ease, and hoping by the way of the river, to see Ombos and the quarries of Djibel Silfilis, he committed himself to the barks, which were to proceed to the same height as the troops, while the latter retraced the route he had already passed.

But scarcely had he embarked, before he experienced the inconveniences of this mode of

travelling. The wind, the difficulty of teaching the people of the country to manœuvre, and the vain cries of the Provencels, all combined to enhance the punishment. He did not reach Koum-Ombos from the 25th February till the third of March, at the moment the wind was favourable for passing further : there was too much necessity for taking advantage of this wind to allow of his venturing to land even for an hour ; he was only able to take a momentary survey of the place, and the situation of its edifices. The scite of the antique Ombos, where the crocodile had been worshipped, is still called Koum-Ombos ; and is an eminence commanding the country. If all the fragments which are still visible belonged to one edifice, it must have been immense. In the centre, is a grand portico, supported by columns with broad capitals, of vast proportions : to the south, a door, which belonged to a wall now destroyed, is preserved entire : to the west, and on the bank of the Nile, arose a mole of considerable proportions ; the attacks of the river have laid bare its foundations, to the depth of forty feet, and manifested that these were constructed with the same solidity and magnificence as the parts designed for decoration. To the north, were the remains of a temple or gallery, and columns, with capitals composed of heads. In the space between these two latter edifices was a parapet of hewn stone, which discovered a grand temple, and which must have produced an effect as theatrical as magnificent. It

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is evident that the Egyptians inclined more to the grand, and even to the picturesque, than to symmetrical regularity, the place of which they supplied by fine masses, richness, noble parts, and sublime effects. Were they in the wrong? this is a question I shall not decide. Be this as it may, whatever was the remainder of the component building, and of the antient city of Ombos, it must have offered the most majestic aspect, since, in its present state of dilapidation, and in spite of the vile huts with which its monuments are encumbered, its forms still present the most magical picture of ruins that it is possible to imagine.

M. Denon was more fortunate the next day: the barks reached the quarries of freestone, cut into the mountains which abut both banks of the Nile; this place is called Djibel Silfilis, and is situate between Edfu and Ombos. The freestone of these quarries being of an equal grain, and entire mass, may be cut into pieces of any size required; and it is doubtlessly to the beauty and equality of this substance that we owe the magnitude and preservation of those monuments which, after a duration of so many ages, are still the objects of our admiration. From the immensity of the excavations and the quantity of fragments still seen in those quarries, it may be judged that the works were followed for thousands of years, and that they have been competent to supply the materials for the greater part of the monuments.

The architectural genius of the Egyptians manifests itself in every part of the quarries, which after furnishing the materials for the erection of temples, have themselves been sanctified by monuments and decorated with temples. On the bank of the Nile are porticoes, with columns, entablatures, and hieroglyphics, cut and worked in the mass, as well as a large number of tombs hollowed in the rock: these tombs are still very curious, though broken up, and shamefully disfigured.

This quarry, prolonged into the mass of the free stone rock, has a sort of facade toward the river, pierced with gate-ways which have served for the passage of the stone drawn from within, in its progress towards embarkation. This sort of facade has been decorated with little porticoes, equally taken from the natural rock, and sculptured with care. On the left of the entrance of one of the streets of these quarries is an inscription decorated with a crown, covered with sacred emblems; and, what is singular, the parallel lines are not perpendicular. There is a portion of stone left in a form resembling that of a mushroom: the intention, no doubt, was that of affording assistance to the calculation of the works of the quarry. Travellers have always seen in this morsel of rock a column to which was fastened a chain which they have believed once barricaded the Nile at this spot, where the river is embraced by two mountains; but, this chain must have been of cord or of iron: if
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it had been of iron, its weight would have pulled down a column twelve times larger than this ; if it had been of hemp, the marks of the part on which it was fastened would still be seen. The best proof that the column of the chain was not at this place, is that a chain could not have been fastened to this column, and that if a chain had existed, it must have been fastened and stretched by other means.

The figures on the tombs, which are of the natural size, and, like themselves, have been formed from the rock itself, are, for the greater part, scarcely traced out : each chamber of these tombs, of seven feet by ten, and eight by eleven, is uniformly lined with painted stucco, and has from one to four figures. The facade of the most considerable is fifty feet in length, by nearly fifteen in height, including an entablature : it has five doors, of which the middlemost is ornamented with a chambranle, covered with hieroglyphics ; two square niches, containing figures ; and, behind this, a gallery of fifty feet in length, by ten in width, in the centre of which is a door opening into a chamber, at the bottom of which are seven statues : on each side of this interior door is a nich, also containing a statue ; and, at the bottom of the gallery, on the right of the entrance, another groupe of these figures : on the exterior facade there are seven niches, three large, with figures, one smaller, also with a figure, and two still smaller, which are empty ; the whole, with the statues, cut, as
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has been said, in the rock, the other parts of which have retained their primitive forms. In this tomb, there are large figures in the private chambers, ornamented with hieroglyphics traced on the rock, and finished in coloured stucco; their subjects are uniformly offerings of bread, fruit, liquors, poultry, &c. The ciplings, also in stucco, are painted with scrolls, in an exquisite taste: the floor is cut into several tombs of just dimensions, and of the same form with the cases of mummies, and in the same number as that of the sculptured figures: of these figures, those which represent men have little square beards, with head-dresses hanging behind their shoulders; those of women, the same head-dresses, but hanging in front on their naked necks. These have ordinarily an arm passed under the figure which is next them, while the other holds a flower of the lotus, the flower of Acheron, the emblem of death. The tombs in which there is but one figure, are apparently those of men who have died unmarried; those in which there are three, may belong to husbands who had two wives; perhaps, also, when two married brothers prepared for themselves but one tomb, the effigies of themselves and of their wives composed those groupes of two couple which are also found. The apertures of these tombs being broken, it was impossible to discover the manner they were closed; it was however evident that all the doors were decorated with chambranles, covered with hieroglyphics, surmounted with a gorgon, forming

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a cornice, and an entablature on which was uniformly sculptured a winged globe.

The choice of this scite for tombs, demonstrates that, in Egypt, the silence of the desert has been the asylum of death: at the present day, in order to find a dry and indestructive situation, the Egyptians carry their dead into the desert, at six miles from their habitations, and return thither weekly, nevertheless, to offer prayers at their sepulchres.

On approaching Esneh he perceived crocodiles as before: none are seen at Syeneh, and they reappear above the cataracts; whence it would seem as if they affected certain parts of the river, and particularly those between Tintyra and Ombos, and that the place at which they are most abundant is Hermontis. There were three near Esneh, one of which, much larger than either of the others, was at least twenty-five feet in length: all the three were asleep; so that the French had an opportunity of advancing within twenty paces of the spot on which they lay, and observing the whole of their disagreeable appearance. M. Denon fired on the largest, with a firelock and cartridge, but the ball only struck and ran over its scales; after which, it leaped ten feet, and escaped into the Nile.

At day-break, M. Denon arrived at Esneh. On landing, he heard the drums beating up the troops; and, in half an hour, he was on horseback, riding away from Apollinopolis, and Lato-
polis,

polis, many further particulars of which he yet wished to examine.

The coalition of the beys was already broken, and Soliman remained at Dāhir. Haffein, with forty mamluks, had separated from Murat at Esneh, and returned to Edfu; all the shechs of the left were to file off lower down; and Murat alone, with three hundred mamluks, was to have descended below Siut, but, met by general Friand, he took the road for Eluah, one of the oases, where he intended to wait for the appointment of destiny concerning himself and the French. There had been two skirmishes between the Mekans and the division of general Friand, on the left bank, between Thebes and Kus, in which six hundred of the latter had perished. It was reported, that the sheereef of Mekka himself, with six thousand followers, was to join the eight or nine hundred who remained of the first crusade.

On the fourth of March, in the morning, the French arrived at Hermontis, where they halted to wait for news of the mamluks, the Mekkans, and the other divisions of the army, at that moment scattered at several points; so that M. Denon had a better opportunity than before of observing the scite of the antient city, which has had a wall, and been adorned with several temples. But incessantly temples! no public edifice, not a house that had strength to make a resistance to time, not a royal palace! where, then, were the people? where, then, were the sovereigns? It would
appear

appear that the first were composed of slaves; the second of pious captains; and the priests, of humble and hypocritical despots, concealing their tyranny under the shadow of an empty monarchy, possessing all the sciences, and wrapping them in emblem and mystery, that they might place a barrier between themselves and the people. The king was served by priests, advised by priests, fed by priests, tutored by priests; every morning, after they had dressed him, they lectured him on the duty of a sovereign towards his people, and towards his religion, and led him to the temple; during the rest of the day, also, like the doge of Venice, he was never without his counsellors, and those were priests. With these precautions, it was impossible, perhaps, to have a bad king; but what did the people gain, if the priests supplied his place? The only two sovereigns who, according to history, ventured to throw off the yoke, shutting up the temples for thirty years, Chephrenes and Chæops, were regarded, and consigned to the annals which the priests wrote, as tyrannical and impious princes.

The palace of an hundred chambers, the only palace cited in the history of Egypt, was the work of a new government, in which the priests could not obtain their former influence. The famous canals, of which history speaks so pompously, have retained no feature of magnificence, no bank, no sluice, no masonry: the trifling side-works and quays which I have met with on the banks of the Nile are little productions in com-

parison with the colossal and immortal temples of which the walls occupy a large part of the site of cities.

On the eighth, the French commenced their march to meet Osman-bey, who it was said had passed the Nile at Kenh. M. Denon reluctantly followed the banks of the Nile, equally flying from the temples of Medinet-Abu, the Memnonium, the temples Kurnu, which were on the left, the temples of Luxor and Karnac, which were on the right: temples! still temples! always temples! and not a vestige of the hundred gates, so pompous and so famous; no walls, no quays, no bridges, no baths, no theatres; not an edifice for public use or convenience!

Four villages and as many hamlets replace, at the present day, this incomprehensible city, as a few wild shoots recal the existence of a tree celebrated for the majesty of its shadow and the lusciousness of its fruits. Leaving this famous soil precipitately, the French halted in the suburb to the west, the quarter of the Necropolis, where the people of Kurnu again disputed the entrance into the tombs. The only way to make them understand that no harm was intended, was to kill them; and, not having time to enter into the discussion, the French contented themselves with blockading them, while they made a small repast on the site of their retreat. Towards evening, one of the spies brought word that the Mekkans, united with Osman-bey, waited for them in their intrenchments at Benhut,

three

three leagues before Kench : and that they were prepared and resolved to follow up the war, and risk a battle. The division encamped for the night upon the bank of the river, which was to be crossed in order to reach the enemy. It was necessary to wait for the barks which had been left to follow. The French saw that they were reconnoitred from the other bank, armed horsemen advancing and retreating momentarily: they made a retrograde march to meet their convoy, which soon rejoined them; and then passed the river at El-Kamonteh. The tenth of March they commenced their route, and on reaching Kus, they found the report confirmed, which had been communicated as above.

Kus lies at the mouth of the desert which leads to Berenice and to Koffeir, and still makes some figure on its southern side. Its immense plantations of melons, and its abundant gardens, cannot but appear delicious to the inhabitants of the coasts of the Red Sea, and to thirsty travellers, just come off the desert. It has succeeded Koptos in commerce and in christianity; the Kopts are still the most numerous of its inhabitants, and their zeal led them to communicate to the French all the information they had been able to collect: They followed them, both in person and with their good wishes, to the confines of their territory. M. Denon was struck with the interest taken by the shech, who, believing that they were marching to certain death, gave them the most circumstantial advice; followed them as far

as he was able, and quitted them with tears in his eyes. Defaix had been ten days at Kus, during which time he had been much in company with the shech ; and this tender interest thus manifested by the latter, was the very natural result of the advantageous idea which he had given of that mild and unwavering equity which procured him the surname of JUST, the finest title ever obtained by a conqueror, by a stranger arrived in a country to desolate it with war.

The French thought little of the barks and the combat : they were very far from conceiving the importance of the report they had received. They were about eight miles from the enemy. Passing through Kus, they discovered to their right, on the borders of the desert, the ruins of Kopthos, famous, in the fourth century, for its oriental commerce ; its antient splendour appears only in the ruins with which the top of the mountain is surrounded, and which still mark the greatness of the space it occupied. The antient city is now as arid and depopulated, as the desert on the margin of which it stands.

Scarcely were they advanced beyond Kopthos, when they received intelligence that the enemy was on his march ; and soon after perceived the flags of his army, the line of which was more than two miles in length. They continued their march in a square battalion, flanked by a single piece of light cannon, and fifteen cavalry. Compared with the enemy, they resembled a point approaching to a line. The cries of the mamluks and the Mekkans

Mekkans were presently heard, and the French met them at a village which the extremity of their line had just occupied. The artillery-men instantly attacked; and, notwithstanding several efficacious discharges, the enemy did not retire: his valour and enthusiasm supplied the want of arms. After this advanced post had been destroyed rather than repulsed, more resistance was found in the villages, where the walls and a few fire-arms gave the enemy some equality to the combat. He was repulsed, however, under another village, half a furlong distant; the mamluks now began to separate, and show a disposition to charge the right of the French, in order to make a diversion to the advantage taken by the latter on their united body: the French marched direct upon them; their undaunted approach, and a few discharges of cannon, soon delivered them from the vicinity of the mamluks, who did not come with the same earnestness as the Mekkanse. After having dislodged the infantry of the second village, the French found themselves in a little plain before Benhut, where they knew the grand body of the enemy to be intrenched. They were prepared for a bloody combat; but not to be cannonaded by regular batteries, by which they were at once overwhelmed with case-shot and ball, which reached and even passed their square. Death, says M. Denon, swept off all around me; I saw him every moment; three persons were killed while I held them in conversation: I did not dare to speak to any one; the last was struck by a ball
which

which we both saw approaching, rolling along, and apparently spent; he lifted his foot to let it pass, when a last bound struck him on the heel, and tore all the muscles of his leg; a wound of which this young officer died the next day.

The French imagined the field-pieces were without carriages, and could consequently be used but in one direction; but they soon observed the shot following their movements, and forcing them to hasten their march, in order to occupy the head of the village, to maintain the combat, while the carabineers and chasseurs turned the battery, and overcame it with the bayonet. On the instant a charge was beaten, and the mamluks precipitated themselves on the carabineers, who received them with a volley of musketry, which forced them to retreat; after which, falling on the battery, they made a general massacre of those by whom it was served: the pieces were found to be French, and recognized as having belonged to the Italy, the admiral-bark of the flotilla. After this important capture, it was thought the battle would have terminated by the flight of the mekkanese army; one division, however, held out a good length of time, while the more considerable, made a sort of retreat, which the French could not annoy, because the mamluks, who had them always in flank, could attack and overthrow them. The French had already fought six hours with an enemy inexperienced, but brave, fanatic, and double in number, who attacked with fury, and resisted with obstinacy, never wheeled

wheeled but in the mass, and was sure to kill all that advanced in detachments. Harassed and panting with heat, they stopped an instant to take breath: they were wholly without water, which they never had so much wanted. I remember, says M. Denon, that in the midst of the action, I found a pitcher at the corner of a wall, and that, not having time to drink, I emptied it into my bosom as I marched, to quench the fire by which I was devouring.

While the enemy had his batteries, he fell back with confidence, because by so doing he armed himself with new strength; the French imagined his first design had been to draw them upon his cannon, but that, after these were lost, the little wood into which he had retired becoming the last point of defence, he would try the fate of another battle, and then throw himself into the water, pass the Nile, regain the mamluks, and with them disappear, all which it would have been impossible for the French to prevent: but, they soon perceived that the wood concealed a large village, with a house belonging to the mamluks, and furnished with fortifications, battlements and bastions, and of difficult approach, the enemy being provided with all sorts of arms and ammunition, which he had taken from the flotilla. They attacked this house on all sides for two hours, and found no part from which they did not receive destruction; they had sixty men killed, and as many wounded; when night came on, they set fire to the adjacent houses, possessed themselves of a
mole,

most, separated the enemy from the Nile, and disposed the cannon for operation, which they had recaptured. On his part, the enemy employed himself in multiplying the number of his battlements, making low batteries, and pointing pieces of artillery, which he had not yet employed. The French learned from the country people, that on the day after the departure of general Desaix in pursuit of Murat, the Mekkans, newly arrived from the desert, attacked the Italy, and the flotilla which she commanded; that, after a combat of twenty-four hours, those on board her had run her aground, and fearing to be boarded, had set her on fire, and taken to the smaller barks; but the wind constantly opposing their manœuvres, and overcome by the number and fury of their assailants, they had all been killed; that, since this time, the Mekkans had collected together all the instruments of attack and defence with which this defeat had furnished them; that they had stranded one of the vessels, in order to force all that navigated the river to pass under their battery, and had thus rendered themselves masters of the Nile; and that, notwithstanding all the people they had lost, they were nevertheless very numerous and determined.

The French began at day-break to batter in breach: constructed of unburnt bricks, each bullet only made its hole, without causing any part to fall; and flames made no progress, on account of the court which separated the Keep from the circumvallation. About nine o'clock the mam-
luks

lks advanced with their camels, as if to the assistance of the place; but, a division marching against them, they retired: seeing that the general cannonade only wasted men and time, Belliard ordered an assault, which was made and received with unexampled valour; under the fire of the enemy, the first circumvallation was forced; and, amidst the volleys and fortie of the besieged, combustibles were introduced which soon rendered the retreat of the latter disastrous: one of their magazines blew up; and, from this moment, the flames reached all parts; the besieged had no water, but they extinguished the fire with their feet and hands, and smothered it with their bodies. Black and naked, their running to and fro among the flames presented the image of the devils in hell; it was a sight of horror and of admiration. A few moments of silence occurred, in which some one was heard speaking; the reply was given in sacred hymns and cries of battle;—and, immediately after, the besieged threw themselves upon the French at all points, in spite of inevitable death.

The French towards evening recommenced their assault: it was long and terrible: twice they penetrated the court, and twice they were obliged to fall back: M. Denon was not so much terrified by the loss sustained as by the fear that they should have to make new efforts against an enemy whose courage rose to the level of every necessity. He knew, besides, that their cartridges were nearly exhausted. Captain Bulliot, an officer of distin-

guished bravery, perished in the last attempt : this man, says M. Denon, who was known for an imprudent hardiness, impelled by a presentiment, pressed my hand as he drew me with him, and bade me an indirect farewell ; an instant after, I saw him crawling on his hands, and endeavouring to steal from death.

The French made an halt, after a battle of two days ; on the approach of night, mournful cares succeeded to the dangers which had been undergone ; they heard the cries of their wounded, to whom they had no remedies to give ; for whom, in the want of instruments, they could not perform the most urgent operations : they had lost a large number of men and officers, and they had still many enemies to overcome : the desire of sparing their brave men, occasioned them to substitute fire for assault : at every avenue there were placed centinels, who were relieved to take repose ; they rested in form of battle. The danger commanded exactitude of service : in the middle of the night, an ass, pursuing a she-ass, galloped into their ground ; and, instantly, every one was at his post, with a silence and order as august as the occasion was ridiculous.

A coptic bishop, a prisoner in the castle, together with a few companions, saved himself by favour of the night, and, covered with wounds, reached the french posts under their fire ; after taking a little nourishment, he detailed the horrors from which he had escaped. The besieged had been twelve hours without water ; their walls
glowed ;

glowed; their tongues had swelled and nearly choked them; in a word, their situation was truly frightful. A few moments after, about an hour before day-break, thirty of the best armed, with two camels, forced one of the posts, and passed. At day-break, the French entered by the breaches caused by the flames, and completed the destruction of the half-roasted men. One of them was led to the general; he appeared to be a chief; he was so swelled, that, on bending himself to sit down, his skin burst at all parts: his first words were—"If I am brought here to be killed, hasten the end of my pain." A slave who followed, looked at his master with so profound an expression, that he filled me, says M. Denon, with esteem both for the one and the other. What looks! what tender and profound melancholy! how good must he have been who was thus beloved by his slave! terrible as was his lot, I envied him: how much he was beloved! and I, said I, to myself, to satisfy a vain curiosity, am a thousand leagues from my country; I have accompanied the brave, and I am looking for a friend! Yesterday, I was with warriors, whom I esteemed; to-day, I accompany their funerals; to-morrow, I shall leave their bodies on a strange land, which will be gloomy to me for the future. O man! where dost thou place the virtues!

On the morning of the twenty-second of March, General Belliard pardoned those whom he had made prisoners, and dismissed them with a liberality forming a contrast to the customs of this part

of the world: many of them were moved with gratitude, and with tears in their eyes, begged permission to follow the French. The mamluks appeared again; the French marched towards them; but it was a false attack, intended to give their camels time to drink. The French drove them into the desert, where they discovered their assembled strength, consisting in a thousand horses, as many camels, and about two thousand attendants on foot; the rest were composed of mamluks, who had perfidiously engaged them in their quarrel, and afterwards cowardly abandoned them. The French, at first, believed, that they were about to plunge into the desert: they felt more than ever the uselessness of following them when they were unwilling to fight, and the impossibility of overtaking them in a country which afforded, so long as they preserved the superiority of their cavalry, and were careful to protect their camels, a retreat always open, and always secure. They abandoned the pursuit therefore, and prudently returned to guard their barks.

The sick man after the paroxysm feels that the fever has taken away his strength. While the French had been firing upon with their own powder and ball, they had not calculated how much had been spent in exhausting and retaking that which had been taken from them; but, grown calmer, they found that they had been drawing a lottery in which every seventh ticket was a red one; that, having supplied the ammunition on both sides, there scarcely remained to them a supply

ply for one battle; and that they were at an hundred and fifty leagues from Kaira, where they were not supposed to have a single want.

While an arrangement was on the tapis respecting the fate of the inhabitants who remained at Benhut, and of those who had fled, M. Denon observed with astonishment all the women seated with great comfort and cheerfulness at the french military posts in the village. Each had made her choice, and seemed perfectly satisfied: among them were many beauties; and to be fed, served, and kindly treated by conquerors was to them a novelty, and they seemed willing to have followed the army. To be property was so much their lot, that it was only through a sentiment of obedience they returned within the power of their fathers and husbands; and, in these disastrous cases, they were not received with that inexorable jealousy which characterizes the orientals: It is war, say they; we were not able to defend them; it is the law of the conquerors to which they have submitted; they are not more injured than we dishonoured by the wounds we have received. Purified by distinctions thus delicate, does not jealousy become a passion, of which one might be proud?

The shech who commanded, or rather exhorted, the Mekkans, had fled towards the end of the last night; during the siege, he had prayed instead of fighting; and from time to time came out of his retreat, saying to his followers, "I am praying to God for you; it is for you to fight for him."

It

It was after these exhortations the French had heard the pious hymns, which were followed by cries of war, forties, and general volleys!

They recommenced their march on the tenth of April, towards Keneh, where they expected to learn the situation of the remainder of the Mekkans, and find General Defaix: This march was annoyed by winds which, without clouds, filled the air with so much sand, that it was neither day or night: the barks could not proceed; and the troops were obliged to halt within half a mile of the fatal Benhut. On the morning of the 11th they reached Keneh, where they found letters from general Defaix, who was ignorant of the loss of the flotilla, and of their position. The city was cleared of enemies, and the inhabitants came out to meet them.

Kenah succeeded to Kus, as Kus succeeded to Kopthos: it is immediately at the mouth of the desert, and on the bank of the Nile: it has never been so flourishing as the two others, because its existence has been only since the indian commerce has been turned and almost annihilated, both by the discovery of the cape of Good Hope, and by the tyranny of the government of Egypt. Reduced to the transit of pilgrims, its trade is insignificant, except at the march of the grand caravan. At Kenah the pilgrims supply themselves with provisions, and whatever is necessary for their passage across the desert to Koffeir, as also for their journey to Jidda, Medina, and Mekka, as well as for their return to Kenah; these

these cities have no other territory than stony deserts, and life is preserved there only by gold; so that if, through favour of fanaticism, Mekka has become a point of contact between India, Africa, and Europe, it has also become an abyss in which an hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants have absorbed the gold of India, Asia-Minor, and all Africa.

The movements of the French in Syria and Egypt had destroyed the caravan of 1798, and dissolved those of Europe and Africa for the next; and, the Indians not finding a market for the merchandize which they had brought to Mekka, the commerce of this place experienced a check which was almost irreparable. When the spring of an old machine is broken, the machine frequently falls to pieces; it is not astonishing, therefore, that, interest joining with fanaticism, the crusade of Mekka was prepared with expedition, and brought against the French with extraordinary zeal and determination.

Belliard had pursued the terrified mamluks and beaten the Mekkans; but ammunition was now wanting, and of this he was utterly destitute. He therefore fortified the house he occupied at Keneh, which served him for head-quarters: he heard no news even from Defaix; the country was covered with enemies, who destroyed his emissaries, and kept him in a state of insulation. Defaix, however, pursued the mamluks as far as Siut, forced Murat-bey to throw himself into the oases, and sent general Friand over to the right bank,

bank, to chase Elfy-bey and the mamluks in a similar manner: after this, he came to Keneh, and joined general Belliard, who accompanied him to the field.

They took the route for Kus, where the Mek-kans were, and whence they made excursions into the villages on either bank, robbing and massacring the christians and the Copts, making them prisoners to extort a ransom. The French left Keneh in the night, in order to attempt a surprisal, marching along the desert, to deceive their out-posts. On reaching the village where their camp was, they found it had been deserted by the enemy at the same hour that the French themselves had left Keneh, and that they were moving towards Kittah.

In the military sense, to take the desert, in upper Egypt, was not only to pass from the cultivated lands to the deserts which border them to the right and left, but to penetrate the gorges that crossed the two chains, and which have openings, that become positions, and a sort of posts, which it is important to occupy and defend. The mamluks were acquainted with all these, and knew the number of the springs that might be met with. There are four of these springs, the water of the first is good only for camels, and is at half a day's journey from Koffeir; the second is at a day and an half's journey from the first; that at Kittah, at another day and an half: this latter lies at the junction of three roads, one proceeding to the south-west, leads to Redifi: another, to the west,
ends

ends at Nagadi ; and the third, to the north-west at Birambar, where the fourth fountain is, and from Birambar, three roads lead to Kus, Kefth or Kopthos, and Keneh.

Defaix's plan was to block the mamluks in the desert, and prevent them from being able to separate without running the risk of being destroyed; he had left three hundred men and some cannon at Keneh ; he posted himself at Birambar with the infantry, the cavalry and the artillery ; and he sent the twenty-first light to occupy the passage of Nagadi: he had either the imprudence to neglect Redifi, or was afraid to scatter himself too much. If the gorge of Redifi could have been occupied, all the beys of the right bank had been obliged to surrender.

In the hope of seeing Thebes on this march, M. Denon joyfully turned his back once more on Kaira ; he followed general Belliard, and was to have rejoined Defaix. I advanced about a league, says M. Denon, when I was overtaken by Latournerie, who had come to bid me adieu: we loved each other much ; I was moved by this testimony of tenderness ; we shed tears together. War may harden the hearts of the cold ; but its horrors do not deaden the sensibility of friendship, when formed in the midst of such difficulties and dangers it becomes unalterable ; it is a sort of brotherhood: the bonds of which fate can never break or disturb.

In crossing Kus, M. Denon found in the middle of the principal place, the corona of a door,

of fine and grand proportions, buried up to the mantle-tree: this single vestige, which can have belonged to no other than a large edifice, attests that Kus has been built on the scite of Appollinopolis-parva. The gravity of this ruin presents a contrast with all that surrounds it, and says more upon egyptian architecture than twenty pages of eulogy or dissertation. The division at length arrived at Nagadi, a large and melancholy village, seated on the desert, and which had been pillaged by a party of mamluks, six hours before. The division posted itself in an enclosure which had formerly been an intrenched convent, inhabited by Copts, afterwards a mosk, and which finally served only for sepultures: here it lodged itself, first driving away the bats, and overturning the tombs. We were surrounded, says M. Denon, by all that is melancholy; and when, to escape the impression which such objects forced upon the mind, we went out at night to breathe for a few instants, our respiration was the only noise that disturbed the frightful calm of nothingness: the wind, passing over this vast horizon without meeting any other object than ourselves, made us, by its silence, sensible, in the midst of darkness, of the immense and melancholy waste by which we were surrounded.

Some merchants, continues M. Denon, who had had the good fortune to save their bales from the mamluks, were alarmed on our account. They brought us presents, these we refused, which still more alarmed them: accustomed to see men covered

covered with gold who laid them under contribution, and seeing us resemble bandits, they believed we were going to rob them. Our portmantles had been taken from us with the barks, and we were in great want of linen; we desired them, therefore, to open their bales, and now all their hopes were at an end. We picked out what we wanted, and asked the value; they said it should be at our pleasure: we asked for the just price, and paid the sum they mentioned: they were undescribably astonished: payment from men in possession of arms and strength! they had travelled all Asia and all Africa, and had seen nothing so extraordinary as this. Henceforth we had all their esteem and confidence; they came to prepare our breakfast, brought us cocoas and various sweet-meats, and made us the best coffee that it is possible to drink: this mixture of privation and luxury had something poignant; there is no situation that has not its enjoyments: I felt this truth at the tombs of Nagadi.

Nagadi is a point which it is important to occupy; and as it is the shortest by a day, it is the most frequented route of the desert: a factor might travel from Koffeir to Nagadi in two days on a dromedary, and in three on foot. As nothing is to be found at Koffeir, the merchant who debarks there at his return from Jidda, procures camels at Nagadi, by the aid of which he may arrive on the third day. We, continues M. Denon, who boasted of being more just than the mamluks, committed almost incessantly many ini-

quities; the difficulty of distinguishing our enemies, caused us to kill innocent country-people every day; the soldiers sent to discover them mistook caravans of poor merchants for Mekkans; and shot several of their party, pillaged their cargoes, and exchanged their camels for such of ours as were wounded, before they could discover their mistake or do them justice. The profits of all this, went to the Copts and interpreters, the blood-suckers of the army; for the soldier, however desirous to enrich himself, abandoned the idea at the beat of the drum or sound of the trumpet. The destiny of the inhabitants, for whose welfare we arrived in Egypt, was not to be preferred: at our approach, they were scared from their houses, when they returned, after we marched forward, they found nothing but the mud of which their walls were composed. Utensils, ploughs, doors, roofs, all had served to make a fire for our soup; their pots were cracked, their corn, chickens, and pigeons eaten; nothing was left, but the dead bodies of the dogs who had attempted to defend the property of their masters. If we halted in their villages, we summoned the wretched people to return to them, under pain of being regarded as rebels; and, when they submitted to such menaces, and discharged the miri, it happened that not unfrequently their large number was taken for an hostile band, their sticks for arms, and that before any explanation could be had, volleys from the riflemen and patrols made many of them bite the dust.

dust. The dead, however, were buried, and friendship continued till an occasion offered for retaliation. If they remained among us, payed the miri, and supplied all the wants of the army, they need not take up their abode in the desert; they saw their provisions eaten, and might eat their share; they preserved a part of their doors, sold their eggs to the soldiers, and had perhaps only a few of their wives and daughters violated: but the mamluks who followed, did not leave them a crown, an horse, or a camel, for their imputed partiality to us, besides which the shech frequently paid the forfeit of his head.

On the third day of our sojourn at Nagadi, we learned that three hundred Mekkans had resolved to push across the desert, as far as Kaira itself, and there mingle with the immense population of that city, till they could return to their own country, or till opportunity presented itself for revenge: Their chief, at the moment of dying, suggested this plan, and advised them not to attempt to fight us; but his nephew, who succeeded to the command, made them believe that the treasure which he had secreted, was still in the castle of Benhut, and that as soon as we should be withdrawn, he would lead them to retake it. In the mean time, he detached them in companies and sent them to rob in the villages for subsistence; a task they willingly executed. The peasants, whose scourge they were become, laid traps for them, treating them like wolves; and when found by our patrols,

trols, they were taken up, shot, and destroyed, as animals destructive to society, and hence they believed that Mahommed had not approved of their crusade, and that it was not from heaven that it had been directed.

General Defaix on the second of April, sent for three hundred of the twenty-first, and fifty horse that were with it at Nagadi in order to replace, at Birambar, those which he took to strengthen the post of Keneh: it had been discovered same time, that the mamluks and Mekkans had quitted Kittah, and proceeded to the mouth of Keneh or of Samatah. The advanced-guard of the body which general Defaix led to Keneh, met and charged the rear-guard of the mamluks: the cavalry was desirous of supporting the advanced-guard; but, being imprudently at too great a distance from the infantry to be itself supported, it was immediately charged and sabred; two chiefs of battalion and seventy dragoons were killed: the artillery would have afforded great succour, but this was too far before; the mamluks continued their route; satisfied with having escaped the snares of the French, saved their convoy, and convinced the french cavalry of their superiority in manœuvring, as also in the use of the back-sword. Two hundred infantry and one piece of cannon might to a certainty have changed this rash affray into an important victory; but a negligent confidence, an error in the whole of the march, as well as in the whole of the attack—the orders of general Defaix, misunderstood, and

and too late arrived, cost many lives. The chief of brigade, Dupleffis, a distinguished soldier, filled with an idea of stain, from not having signalized himself in the preceding war, seized the first opportunity; he forgot the orders he had received to keep at an impregnable post he occupied; he rushed forward, outstripping those he commanded, and precipitated his person into the midst of the enemy. He singled out Osman, the most valiant of the beys; their two horses struck each other with such force, that that of Dupleffis fell: he leaped upon his saddle, seized Osman by the body, and confined him with his arms. During this struggle, worthy of antient chivalry, the unfortunate Dupleffis, who had not been followed, was furrounded, and pierced with a lance on the very body of his adversary.

The combat of Birambar, though ill combined, was nevertheless attended by favourable results; the French learned, that of four who lay dead on the field of battle, two had beards, and consequently that they were at least kiashefs. They afterwards learned that one of the two was Mustapha-kiashef, ABU-DIAB, the BEARDED FATHER; they also learned that Hassein-bey had received a ball in the neck, and a cut from a sabre on the arm; that Osman-bey had had almost all his fingers cut off; that an hundred and fifty of his bravest mamluks had been rendered incapable of fighting; and, that, after having gained the advantage in the rencontre, the fear of finding the infantry in their route, and of losing their equipage,

page, had made them alter their road, and re-enter the desert. They learned by those they sent to Kittah, that they had returned to that place for water, and taken the route for Redifi, directing their march into upper Egypt. M. Denon believes that he was the only one who rejoiced, when the division received orders to overtake the mamluks, or drive them beyond Redifi. In company with a division, he left Nagadi, following the reverse of the mountains behind which the mamluks were marching, who were in the most pitiable state of distress.

M. Denon arrived on the soil of Thebes, towards noon; at a mile and a half from the Nile, he saw the ruins of a grand temple, of which no traveller has spoken, and which may mark the immensity of this city, since it stands at more than five miles and an half from Medinet-Abu, at which is the most westerly temple. This was the third time that M. Denon had visited Thebes; but, fate seemed to have decreed that he should always see in haste what interested him most. He endeavoured to discover whether, at Thebes, the arts had had epochs and a chronology: if there had existed a palace in Egypt, it was at Thebes, since Thebes had been the capital; if there had been epochs in the arts, the results of their first essays must be in the capital also, luxury and magnificence spreading themselves only progressively from this point, since they attend only on opulence and superfluity. At length, he reached Karnac, a village built on a small part of the
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site of a temple, which had an extent that would require an hour and an half to compass : Herodotus, who had not seen it, has given a just idea of its vastness and magnificence ; Diodorus and Strabo, who saw only its ruins, appear to have given the description of its actual state. The temples of Karnac and Luxor, must, perhaps, be referred to the time of Sesostris, when the arts had birth in Egypt, and possibly first shewed themselves upon the earth. The pride of raising colossuses was the first thought of opulence ; it was not yet known that perfection gives to the arts a grandeur independent of proportion ; that the little rotunda at Vincenza is a finer edifice than Saint Peter at Rome ; that the school of surgery at Paris is as grand as the pantheon in the same city ; that a cameo may be preferable to a colossal statue. It is the sumptuousness, then, of the Egyptians that we behold at Karnac, where there are quarries and mountains fashioned with massive proportions : an execution soft in the outline but rude in the masonry, barbarous reliefs and hieroglyphics, in a state of coarse sculpture. M. Denon is persuaded that the chaste embellishments he observed there have been posteriorly added to these colossal monuments.

It must be added to the known descriptions of the great edifice at Karnac, that it was nothing but a temple. The smallest of the hundred columns of the only portico of this temple are seven feet in diameter, and the largest eleven ; the area of its circumvallation contains lakes and moun-

tains ; avenues of sphinxes lead to the doors of this circumvallation : and, in a word, to form a true idea of so much magnificence, one ought to believe himself dreaming when he reads, for the traveller believes himself dreaming while he sees ; although its destruction disfigures a great part of its effect.

Luxor, the finest village of the environs, is built in the midst of the ruins of a temple, less vast than that of Karnac, but in better preservation. The most colossal parts of this temple are a range of fourteen columns of ten feet diameter, and, at its first door, two figures in granite, before which are the two well-known obelisks ; it redounds to the renown of Thebes, that the greatest and most flourishing of republics does not think itself equal to the mere transportation of these two monuments, which are but fragments of one of the numerous edifices of this astonishing metropolis.

At two o'clock, they left Thebes, and, in about three hours, arrived at Salamieh. The next day, they entered the desert, and, at an early hour, arrived at Esneh. The day after, continuing their march, they saw a small temple, much ruined, but very picturesque, and remarkable for its plan and details : it is composed of a portico of four columns in front, and of two pilasters and two columns in depth, a sanctuary in the midst, and two lateral parts. This edifice is one of the most injured which M. Denon saw in Egypt ; tho' the accessories are better preserved than in other temples,

temples, which has doubtless been the consequence of employing a better description of brick: the circumvallation, in which were the lodgings of the priests, may be recognized with tolerable distinctness: the entire is elevated above the very little town of Contra-Latopolis, which has been built around this edifice. It was scarcely day-break before the troop defiled, continuing their route along the mountain: at this height, the right division of Egypt is so narrow, that at two places the chain abuts the Nile itself, scarcely affording a passage to the artillery, by which a considerable part of the day was lost; beyond these passages the rocks change their nature; M. Denon found the quarries of freestone, whence have issued the town and temples of Knubis, at which he arrived an hour after. A quarter of a league before the entrance of this city, there are two tombs cut in the rock, and a little sanctuary, surrounded by a gallery, with a portico: M. Denon proceeded from this temple to the temples of Knubis. The most considerable and most elevated of those consists in six columns, three of which have capitals which M. Denon calls, swelling; parallel to three others with capitals formed only by widening the substance of the column, and adorning the place of their junction with bands; these sort of capitals M. Denon terms, evases. Among these ruins of architecture there are also a few of sculpture, particularly those of a groupe of two conjoined figures, of three feet in height, including their heads, which are broken.

ken. What more peculiarly characterizes Knubis is a wall, built of unburnt brick, which is conic, and of more than twenty-five feet in thickness, at its base; this extraordinary work still exists almost in a perfect state. Can this be an arabian work? History is silent on this head; and, there are no fragments of arabian buildings within the enclosure of Knubis.

M. Denon having beheld Knubis under full sail, as he descended by the water, now took another view on full gallop, as he re-ascended by land, lamenting war, warriors, and the importance of their operations, which constantly forced him to leave every thing which interested him, to run after people who made more ground in one day than the French did in three. The next day, he found the remains of two temples razed to the ground, of which it was impossible to take either the plan or the view; they seemed to remain only to mark the site of Juno-Lucina, which d'Anville has placed there. At length, they reached the gorge of Redisi, which is a fourth opening from Kittah, and which had been fatal to the mamluks, who had lost almost all their horses, a part of their camels, a number of servants, and twenty-six women, out of twenty-eight, whom the beys had brought on their march: their route had been marked every where by disasters, scattered tents, arms, clothing, the bodies of meagre horses, and wretched women. The mind may paint to itself the lot of a wretch panting with fatigue and thirst, his throat shrivelled, with difficulty breathing the sultry

fultry atmosphere which devours him ; he hopes that a moment of repose will in some measure recruit his strength ; he stops ; he sees those march away who were his companions, and of whom he solicited succour in vain ; personal misfortune has shut up every heart ; without looking round, his eye fixed, each pursues in silence the track of him that has preceded him ; all pass, all disappear ; and his drowsy limbs fail him, and refuse to be re-animated either by danger or fear : the caravan is gone, already it appears to him no more than a moving line in the space, soon it is no more than a point, and this too vanishes. The last beam of light grows dull ; his looks wander around, and discover nothing ; he turns them on himself, and soon shuts his eyes to escape the frightful void that surrounds him ; his ears gather nothing ; that portion of existence which is left him belongs to death ; all alone in the world, he dies ; and his corpse, devoured by the aridity of the soil, will soon be reduced to a few white bones, the way-mark of the doubtful march of him who next ventures to brave the fate that he has suffered.

These were the terrifying features by which the French recognized the march of the mamluks ; they had re-ascended towards the cataracts, and were gone to refresh themselves in an island between Baban and Ombos, which has already been mentioned ; their distresses tranquillized the French with respect to their designs, and induced them to stop their pursuit through a country in which they
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could not hope to find resources, as the mamluks who had preceded them, necessarily consumed the whole.

They encamped, or rather reposed, near the river, stationing themselves among the tombs, close to two sun-burnt mimosas, which showed only that they had lived there, and that nature would vegetate again. Every thing that could be spared was sent to Edfu, and M. Denon accompanied the surplus, hoping to see the temple of Apollinopolis, the most beautiful of Egypt, and, after those of Thebes, the largest: built when the arts and sciences had acquired all their splendour, all the parts are finely executed; the workmanship of the hieroglyphics is equally elaborate, the figures more varied, and the architecture more perfect than in the edifices of Thebes, which must be dated at an earlier age: the whole of this superb edifice is seated on an eminence which commands not only the environs but the entire valley: close to this grand temple, is a small one, almost buried to its summit. It is remarkable in an edifice of so refined execution, the doors are not regularly in the centre. It was probably dedicated to the evil genius; for the figure of Typhon is upon the four sides of the die surmounting each of the capitals; the whole of the frieze, and all the pictures of the interior, are analogous to the defence made by Isis against the attacks of this monster.

General Belliard arrived on the second day, and M. Denon departed in his company on that following. At some distance from Edfu, he found

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on the bank of the Nile the remains of a quay, near the mouth of a great canal; no other ruin accompanied this great fragment: two flights of stairs, however, evidently constructed for daily use, implies the presence of an antique city, or at least of habitations, of which the memory is lost. The division repassed the ruins of Hieracopolis, and slept eight miles from Edfu: it resumed its march at one in the morning, and reached Esneh on the twelfth of April, exhausted with fatigue. They flattered themselves with the hope of a little repose; but they soon learned that the remainder of the Mekkans, united with some mamluks, had marched to Djirjeh; that intercepted and beaten, they had not given up their design, but had gone to Djirjeh, to pillage the basar; that one party had been surrounded and beaten again; but, nevertheless, the few who remained were still to be feared, because they stirred up the fanatics. They recommenced their march, therefore, to occupy the mouths of the desert anew. They employed a whole night in passing the river; when they began their progress the sun was risen and already burning; they slept that night at Salamieh. The next day, after a march of a few hours, M. Denon, for the fourth time, perceived the ruins of Thebes. From Karnac to Medinet-Abu, the ruins on either side of the flood occupy a space of six miles; and, exclusively of this space, there is a ruin to the north-east, at the village of Guedrina, three quarters of a league behind, which gives to Thebes more than two leagues and an half of extent,

tent, occupied by edifices: on this occasion, the halt was made at Karnac, fortunately for M. Denon. Unable, by himself, to take the plan of this mass of ruins, his design was to employ the two hours he was to employ there in making drafts of the historical low-reliefs, in acquiring an idea of this primitive sculpture, of the style and composition of the pictures of the times, and of the state of this art, at a period so remote that it is possible these were its most antient productions.

Among these subjects are a Pharaoh, a Memnon, an Ossimandue, perhaps a Sesostris, fighting alone in a car; pursuing distant nations, he drives them into a morass, and obliges them to take refuge in a fortress. In another fragment, he overthrows a chief, already struck by an arrow; in another, he leads his captives; in a fourth, he presents them, in chains, to three divinities, to whose protection he attributed his victory; it is to be remarked that, in all the above actions, his arms have been uniformly accompanied and protected by one or two emblematic sparrow-hawks. The divinities to whom he presents his offerings are those of abundance, under the figure of a Priapus, holding in his right hand a scourge; it was to this god that the temple of Karnac was consecrated, the grandest of Thebes, and one of the most antient and magnificent ever constructed. From the sanctuary to the circumvallation, this god is represented in a manner the least equivocal, by his characteristic trait. The day advanced, and the French had not yet obtained any thing to eat:

eat : the sun gained upon them, and it was resolved to sleep at Karnac. M. Denon returned quickly to his work, over-ran the ruins, and convinced himself that it would require eight days to take a plan, in the least degree satisfactory, of the groupes of edifices enclosed within the same circumvallation. He was unable to measure the surface of this groupe of edifices; but, in encompassing it several times on horseback, at a full trot, he performed the ride in twenty-five minutes. This circumvallation was entered by six doors, still in existence, of which three were preceded by avenues of sphinxes; it contained not only the grand temple, but three others, entirely distinct, having their doors, their porticoes, their courts, their avenues, and their private enclosures. Were these temples? were they palaces? did the sovereigns lodge under the porticoes of the temples? This is certain, that, if they occupied those buildings, which we regard as temples, they were not commodiously lodged. M. Denon had, besides, opportunities for observing that some of these obscure chambers contained little tabernacles, doubtlessly inclosing the figure which was its emblem, or the treasure of the temple; a deposit which naturally made the place sacred at once, and shut it against all but the priests. What monotony! what melancholy wisdom! what gravity of manners! I still admire with alarm the organization of a government like this; by the traces of which I am even now terrified and chilled. The divinity, sacerdotally arrayed, holds

in the one hand a hook, and the other a scourge, the one doubtlesly to stop, and the other to punish: I saw the arts, and their genius, borne down: the sign of generation, traced, without modesty, in the very sanctuaries of the temples, seemed to me to express only to destroy the pleasure of which, itself, they made a duty: not a circus, not an arena, not a theatre! temples, mysteries, initiations, priests, victims! for pleasures, ceremonies! for luxuries, tombs! The evil genius of France will certainly invoke the soul of an egyptian priest, if ever he seek to animate the monster that would render them melancholy and saturnine.

After having traced the details of the edifice, M. Denon found himself at the south-east part of this enclosure, which comprizes other unconnected temples. In the interior of one of these, behind two moles is an open portico of twenty-eight columns, heavy in its proportions, and has a character, the austerity of which produces its nobleness; so true it is, that in architecture, when the lines are long, few, and free from intersecion, the effect is always grand and imposing! At the bottom of this first portico, a large door discovers a second, supported by eight columns, in two ranks, of a proportion still heavier, and a character, the gloominess of which renders it still more terrible; this is the temple of the Eumenides: a wall of circumvallation insulates this edifice, which seems to be the asylum of terror. M. Denon would have made a design of the interior,
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with the sentiment with which it inspired him ; but he was so exhausted, that he was incapable of describing what he conceived. The sun had burned his feet, through his boots ; he could remain in one place only by causing his servant to walk between the sun and himself, that a little shade might be thrown upon him by his body ; the stones were so hot, that, in picking up some cornelian agates which are here in great abundance, he was so burnt by them, that, in order to carry them, he was obliged to throw them on his handkerchief, as he would hot coals. Overcome with lassitude, he threw himself down in a little arabian tomb, which had been prepared for him for the night, and which appeared to him a delicious chamber, till he was told that, at the time of his passing Karnac before, the throat had there been cut of a Frenchman who had delayed behind the column : the marks of his murder were still on the walls, and filled M. Denon with horror ; but he was sleepy, and so weary that he believes he should not have risen off the dead body itself of the unfortunate victim.

The division marched the next morning before day-break ; and M. Denon sighed, in the thought he should see Thebes no more : he had not seen the tombs of the kings, but he resigned himself to events, and in the sequel, these seconded his desires.

At day-break, I was near enough, says M. Denon, to Guedima, to see the ruin it contains : four columns still bear three stones of their entablature :

ture: before these are the bases of two moles entirely ruined and formless; these are the only remains of an edifice which at this day serves, like a stake, to measure monumentally the extension of Thebes. At noon the division arrived at Kus; the Mekkans had passed under the hands of all the detachments, and, in flying, they had fallen under the sabre of the cavalry at Tata. The inhabitants of Kus, who had welcomed them even when they had thought them marching to certain destruction, came out to meet them, and received them as triumphers.

The shereef of Mekka had sent to general Desaix, protesting against the expedition of his countrymen, and proposing alliance and friendship; the towns of Jidda and Tor, likewise asked for peace, and Koffeir offered to submit. Desaix in the first instance proclaimed that the seeded ground the herbage of which had been eaten by the mamluks or by the French should not pay the miri: this ordinance of equity charmed and surprized the inhabitants; but their hearts were still more subdued when it was further proclaimed that they might clothe themselves without distinction, as their means permitted, and without endangering their property. The merchants of Koffeir, who had concealed themselves, came and bought corn at Keneh; those of Jidda and Koffeir arrived in vessels laden with coffee, and offered to pay a duty which was no longer arbitrary. The French saw money come in unforced by the bayonet; straw, barley, and cattle filled the magazines and markets,

markets, and the chiefs of the villages promised for the husbandmen, that the country, then naked and dry, should the next year be verdant, and covered with grain. The caravans likewise sent to them, soliciting passports; the mamluks, abandoned by their masters, brought in their arms, begging to serve in the army: they had, therefore, the satisfactory spectacle of the downfall of an odious government that no longer retained a single base on which to found its re-establishment.

They reposd some days at Kus, and M. Denon copied the remains of an inscription on the gorge of the corona of a door formerly mentioned: he regarded it as an adroit flattery of a prefect of upper Egypt, in the time of the Ptolemies, who, after twenty or thirty ages, making some repairs, had thought of dedicating this temple to his masters, and of inscribing their names, to transmit them to posterity: the glory of kings pierces the night of time only when borne by the monuments which are raised by the arts; deprived of their assistance, a small number of ages devour the past, and suffer only a few glimmering names to escape; names with which memory refuses to charge itself, and which history repeats in vain. What would have become of Achilles, without the poem of Homer, which is a monument? It is by monuments we hear of Sesostris and of Pericles; they make all the glory of the age of Augustus; that of the Medici illuminates Tuscany, and the tomb of Laurentio still beams with light, while

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we look in vain for those of Genferci, Attila, and Tamerlane—scourges of the earth!

The French leaving Kus arrived at Keneh, where they found a number of merchants of all nations. In entering into conversation with people of the most distant countries, nations wide apart seem to approach; in counting the days of the journey, and seeing the means of performing it, the distance diminishes. The Red-sea, Jidda, and Mekka became places in the neighbourhood of our habitations, and India seemed to be contiguous: from oasis to oasis, by marches of a day or two at most, the traveller reaches Sennaar, one of the capitals of Nubia, which separates Egypt from Abyssinia, as well as from Fur, which trades with the Tombuctans: it is true that, if it takes up forty days to go to Fur, it employs an hundred more to reach Tombuctoo.

Notwithstanding the dispositions and calculations of people of good understanding, the mass of the nation, accustomed to belong to cruel masters, taking for weakness the equity of the French, suffered themselves to be seduced by the beys, who, availing themselves of the prejudice of religion, and the advantage given them by the language to which these unfortunate people had been accustomed to render obedience, again organized insurrections, within a short space of the division.

Beneadi, a considerable village, two miles in length, on the border of the desert, containing twelve thousand inhabitants, called in the Arabs:

a caravan

a caravan from Fur arrived there; Murat-bey, who came by the desert to cut off the communication with upper Egypt, found means to insurge some, to fanaticize others, and to make them suddenly take to arms. To this village General Davoust was sent with the cavalry; our tranquillity required the destruction of the volcano by which it was incessantly threatened: The village was therefore given to the ardour with which its booty inspired the soldiers, and it disappeared in an instant.

In the booty was an immense number of women; the first to whom they fell by lot disposed of them to great advantage; but at each change they doubled in price: they all modestly follow with an impassible resignation, those to whom they were one after another adjudged, till at length their father, their husband, or their antient master, came to buy them of their latter lovers, at a price much exceeding that which these had given. At first sight this does not appear to agree with oriental manners and jealousy; but, as it has been observed, on these occasions, they say, very sensibly, it is not their fault that we were not able to afford them defence.

Murat-bey saw his allies attacked and destroyed without daring to come to their assistance; he contented himself with taking a station which kept the French in check, without exposing himself; he temporized under the present circumstances; he succeeded in persuading the emir-el-hadji, who was at Kaira, and who was to rejoin the command-

mander-in-chief in Syria, to form a train sufficient to attempt a coup-de-main on his route, possess himself of Belbeys, cut off the return of the army, raise Egypt against the divided troops, and force them to unite, abandoning upper Egypt. This plan, however, produced the ruin of the emir; suspicious movements discovered his designs; and on the instant of being arrested by the garrison of Belbeys, he had time only to fly into the desert, with a few of his followers. In consequence of this, the massacre of Beneadi, and a second defeat of the fugitive inhabitants at Mufet took place.

M. Denon on arriving at Keneh, had to regret the death of a crocodile which the peasants had surprized asleep, and brought to the officer who commanded in the absence of general Belliard: still young, this animal could not have been much to be feared; it might have been so enchained that its habits could have been observed and discovered: these habits are unknown even in the country it inhabits, so greatly is it feared: it would have been very interesting to have observed how this animal ate, what it ate, whether mastication were necessary to it, how it effectuated this with teeth which are all incisive, what were the action of a gullet, which supplies the place of a tongue, whether its verocity might be made subservient to its being tamed; or rather leaving it to its character, to have attempted the transit of it alive to Paris, where it would have been open to the observation of naturalists, and been an homage to the nation,

tion, as a trophy of the conquest of the Nile. Wandering on the banks of this river, M. Denon frequently saw a considerable number, from three to twenty-six or twenty-eight feet in length; several officers have assured him that they have seen one of forty: they are not so much to be feared as it is reported; they prefer some shallows to others, which proves that they live in families; it is on the low isles that they bask in the sun, and several are seen at a time, always motionless, and usually asleep, in the midst of birds whom they do not frighten. What is it upon which these huge animals live? Many stories are told of them, but M. Denon was never a witness of a single fact; bold to rashness, the soldiers braved them; he, himself, bathed daily in the Nile; the greater tranquillity of the night induced him to risk dangers which no event rendered probable: they ate some of the corpses which war scattered in their way, a food which should have excited their appetite, and engaged them in a chase that promised the same; and yet the French in no instance were attacked by them, nor did they see a single crocodile at any distance from the river. The Nile, it would appear, supplies them in abundance with an easy prey, and they digest slowly, having, like the lizard, cold blood and a stomach with but little activity: what a dangerous enemy would they be to mankind, if, covered as they are with a defensive armour, they were skilful in the use of the offensive weapons with which they have been provided by nature. General Belliard had a young

crocodile, of six inches in length, which was already mischievous : that general has informed M. Denon, that it lived four months without eating, without appearing to be hungry, without becoming meagre or increasing in bulk, and without growing tame.

At Keneh M. Denon saw from his window the ruins of Tintyra, on the other side of the Nile : ruins he remembered with so much interest, and of which he particularly regretted the zodiac, as it proved so clearly the exalted knowledge of the Egyptians in astronomy !

The people of Dendera neglected to pay the miri, and, in consequence, an hundred soldiers were sent thither : M. Denon accompanied this troop ; it was a ride only of twenty minutes from Dendera to the ruins of Tintyra. He went to the ruins, and his first enjoyment was that of convincing himself that his enthusiasm for the great temple had not been an illusion ; since, after having seen all the edifices of Egypt, this still appeared to him to be of the most perfect execution, and to have been constructed in the happiest era of the sciences and the arts ; all is elaborate, all is interesting, all is important, nothing has been done without an object : his time was very limited, and he began with that which was the principal object of this journey, the celestial planisphere which occupies a part of the ceiling of a little apartment built on the top of the cella of the great temple. The remaining part of the ceiling is divided into two equal portions, by a great figure,

gure, he supposed that of Isis; her feet are supported by the earth, her arms extended towards heaven, and she seems to occupy all the space which separates these. In the other division of the cieling is another great figure, which he believes to be either heaven or the year, touching, both with its feet and hands, the same base, and covering with the curvature of its body fourteen globes, seated in fourteen barks, distributed on seven bands or zones, separated by hieroglyphics without number, and too much covered with besmoked salacities to be distinguished. It is very difficult to fix a thought on the probable use of this little edifice, thus highly ornamented with pictures evidently scientific; those of the cieling are relative to the motion of the celestial bodies, and those of the wall to that of the earth, the influences of the atmosphere and those of the water. Isis was the divinity of all the temples of Tintyra, for her emblem is formed in all their parts: her head serves for the capital of the columns of the portico and of the first chamber of the great temple: she is on the centre of the astragal: she is gigantically sculptured on the exterior wall of the bottom: she is the object of the ornaments of the frize and the cornice: she is in all the pictures, with her attributes; all the offerings are made to her or her husband Osiris; in the little temple on the right of the entrance, she is triumphing over two evil geniuses; in that which is behind the greater, she is depicted as holding Orus in her arms, defending him from infancy to

puberty, and sometimes offering him the breast, which he receives standing, being near the height of his mother. There remain neither hinges nor fastening to those doors which enclosed mysteries of which the priests were so jealous, and, perhaps, the treasures of the state ; for, the sanctuaries like strong-boxes, preceded by so many doors, the chambers, devoted to an eternal night, the mystery spread over the rites, as obscure as the temples, the initiations, so difficult, and to which no stranger was ever admitted, and of which all we know is, that they were mysterious ; the government and the religion which were extinguished from the moment Cambyfes violated the sanctuaries, overthrew the divinities, and emptied the treasures ; all, all declare, that these temples contained the essence of all, from which all emanated.

The eagerness of the shech of the village to deliver the neighbourhood from the French, abruptly stopt M. Denon's researches. At day-break, he brought the contribution ; and, of course, the expedition was terminated. He took a copy of an inscription sculptured in grecian characters, on the listels of the right and left of the corona of one of the doors of the circumvallation, to the south of the temple. It is as follows :

FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE EMPE-
ROR CÆSAR, GOD, SON OF JUPITER,
AUTHOR OF OUR LIBERTY, WHEN,
PUBLIUS-OCTAVIUS BEING GOVERNOR,
MARCUS-CLAUDIUS-POSTHUMUS COM-
MAN-

MANDANT-GENERAL, TRYPHON, AND COMMANDANT-PARTICULAR OF THE TROOPS, THE ENVOYS OF THE METROPOLIS CONSECRATED, IN VIRTUE OF A LAW, THE PROPYLÆUM TO ISIS, MOST GREAT GODDESS, AND TO THE GODS HONOURED IN THIS SAME TEMPLE, IN THE YEAR OF CÆSAR XXXI, THE COLLEGE OF PRIESTS TO THE EMPRESS.

There is another inscription, but M. Denon was not able to distinguish the characters perfectly :— these few grecian characters in the midst of innumerable egyptian inscriptions, appear extraordinary. The following are among the hieroglyphics ; a sculpture which represents a figure bearing a club, on which is a serpent, ready to crush the little Orus, who is succoured by the emblem of Isis, the horns of a cow, the measure of the Nile, signifying the inundation, which saves the earth from the attempts of Typhon, that is, the wind of the desert. On the walls of the great temple, one of the two thousand sculptures represents Orus offering an oblation to Isis and Osiris, or the earth returning thanks for the benefactions of the heavens : on the portico, is a sculptured temple with a pediment ; it has been said that, on account of the general absence of rain in Egypt, no pitched roofs have belonged to the architecture of that country ; the representation of this pedimented temple is held by a person who is in the act of making an offering, this, therefore, was a votive egyptian temple, as may be judged from

from its door. With respect to the fourteen barks bearing fourteen balls or disks, it is possible that they signify the lunar months: the number fourteen was consecrated; on the frieze of the door, under the portico of Apollinopolis-magna, at Edfu, there are fourteen divinities, ready to ascend fourteen empty steps which terminate at an astronomical sign, consisting of an eye on the prow of a vessel, in the disk of the moon, sustained by a prop terminating in a flower of the lotus. The same number of steps, the same number of divinities, and the same sign, are sculptured on each extremity of the cieling of the portico of Tintyra, and on the steps of the stairs, which ascend from the plat-form of the cella to the plat-form of the portico. In the low-relief of Apollinopolis the figures have their legs engaged; in that of Tintyra they are alternately the figures of men and the figures of women; in the picture which occupies one half of the cieling of the third chamber of the apartment which is on the top of the great temple, are three figures of women, which, in a singular manner, stretch out their arms to reach a little Osiris; the arms proceed from their brain, whence it appears that the Egyptians had conventional signs to express certain things, and to which they made the most sacred laws of nature and of art subservient; that the state of the arts among them must not be judged of from their emblematic figures; that they had an art apart, but that it was held within limits, and bound to consecrated uses, by rules exceedingly

exceedingly severe. This accounts for their productions of unconfined genius being so rare, that, before the french expedition, it was not known that they existed; on the cieling of the chamber parallel to that which contains the zodiac, is a picture containing the figure of a woman of thirty feet in height, and which possibly represents the year, a conjecture which is supported by the figures on her arms and her body; here is a globe with legs, which may signify the course of the earth, and the revolution of the year; the same globe passing from the figure of the sun to another figure, may be the earth between day and night; a bent figure in a globe between a man and a woman may be that of the earth, which presents one side to the day, while it presents the contrary to night, and the man and woman may be Osiris and Isis, who superintend and regulate its movements; all this, however, is but conjecture; could the writing about it be once understood, it would probably discover the truth: beneath the woman is a figure which turns its feet over its head, and that possibly signifies the earth, which turns on its own axis; on each extended hand of this figure is a disk, containing the figure of Osiris, or the sun at the tropics, approaching each pole in the progress of the year; and from the figure project rays, bearing divisions of the year, and its influences on the earth; probably a sort of almanac.

It is difficult to conceive the purpose of this little apartment, the cielings of the several chambers

bers of which we have just described: it may have been an oratory, an observatory, a sanctuary, a place of residence, or a place of study, sacred to astronomy. It is entered by a little door, which opens into an apartment without a cover, adorned with the same labour as the other parts; against the lateral wall of the right chamber is represented a couched mummy, under which is a long inscription; a door from the court enters into the chamber on the ceiling of which is the planisphere, it is illuminated by two long casement windows; the adjoining chamber is almost entirely dark, receiving light only by its door, which opens from the first chamber.

A few days after M. Denon's return from Tintyra, a party of cavalry was sent with a pay-master who was carrying his chest from Esneh to Kenh: he took this opportunity of visiting Kefth or Kopthos, which he had passed three times without being able to enter. This town was celebrated for its misfortunes in the time of the persecutions of Diocletian. On reaching it, he was struck with the preservation of several edifices: the antient part is still in the state in which it was left by the effects of the long siege which destroyed it in the third century; to this antique enclosure has succeeded an arabian village, with a circumvallation of unburnt brick, beyond which is Kefth. The different ruins of two temples of great antiquity are here evidently distinguishable, as well as those of a christian church, remarkable for the magnificence and richness of the materials

rials employed in its construction : the fragments of the columns and pilasters in porphyry and granite, spread over an immense scite, attest the opulence and luxury of these primitive believers.

M. Denon had frequently heard of the kamseen, or hurricane of Egypt and of the desert, and which is not more terrible in its results than in the spectacle it presents. Half the season it occurs in had passed, when, on the evening of the 17th of May, he felt himself as if swooning from a suffocating heat ; the atmosphere seemed to be motionless. He went to bathe, as a remedy for this painful sensation, and was struck on reaching the bank of the Nile, with a sight of a novel nature : this was a light and colours which he had never before witnessed ; the sun, though not concealed, seemed to have been robbed of its rays ; duller than the moon, it emitted but a white and shadowless light ; the water appeared muddy and reflected no rays : every thing had changed its aspect ; the shore was luminous, the atmosphere was dull, and seemed opake ; a yellow horizon caused the trees to appear of a discoloured blue ; flocks of birds flew before the clouds ; the frightened quadrupeds fled into the country, and the inhabitants, who followed them, hallooing, were unable to re-collect them : the wind which elevated the enormous mass, and impelled it forward, had not yet reached M. Denon and his friends ; they thought that entering the water, which was calm, would be a means of avoiding the mass of dust coming from the south-west ; but scarcely had

they entered the river when it swelled as if it would have left its bed, the waves passed over their heads, the earth moved under their feet, their clothes fled with the strand, which seemed moving before the whirlwind: they were obliged to leave the water, and their bodies, soiled and lashed by the dust, were covered with a black mud which prevented them from dressing: illumined only by a rust-coloured and gloomy light, their eyes tortured with spicules, their nostrils filled, their throats unable to moisten the dust which respiration forced them to absorb; they lost one another, lost their way, and arrived at their lodgings, groping their road, and only guided by the walls: it was now that they felt in the most lively manner what must be the situation of those overtaken by this phenomenon in the desert.

Accustomed in Egypt to a constant serenity of the heavens, this transition almost tempted them to accuse Providence of cruelty. The same mass of dust proceeded, with the same circumstances, the next day, along the desert of Egypt: it followed the chain of the mountains, and when the French imagined themselves delivered from it, the westerly wind brought it back, and submerged them again with this arid torrent: the light scarcely pierced through these opaque clouds: all the elements seemed to be again disordered, rain mingled itself with torrents of fire, of wind, and of dust; while the trees and all the other productions of organized nature, seemed re-plunged in the horrors of chaos.

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Had the desert of Lybia sent these whirls of dust, the winds of the east had produced an inundation: the next day, merchants, who came from the shores of the Red-sea, reported that, in the vallies, they had found water up to the mid-leg. Two days after, information was received that the plain was covered with birds, which travelled in close phalanxes and descended from the east to the west: from a distance, the fields seemed to move, or a torrent to roll along the plain. Believing that it was foreign birds who were on their passage in great numbers, they hastened to examine them; but, instead of birds, they found a cloud of locusts, who skimmed along, stopping at every blade of corn, to devour it, and then flying to a fresh prey. In a season when the corn is delicate, this is a real plague; they are as meagre, as active, and as rigorous as the beduins, and like them too, a production of the desert: it would be interesting to discover how they live and reproduce in a region thus arid; it was perhaps the rain that had hatched them, and produced this emigration, as certain winds give birth to gnats. The wind having changed to a direction contrary to that of their flight, they returned into the desert. They are of a rose colour, speckled with black, wild, strong, and caught with difficulty.

A detachment of two hundred men of the garrison of Esneh, had left Edfu, and marched towards Syeneh, to dislodge the beys Osman and Hassein, who were returned to that place: em-

boldened by the smallness of this detachment, which had marched without artillery, the latter came out to meet them, and attacked with their usual impetuosity. Selim-bey and forty-two mamluks remained on the field of battle, or died the same day at Syeneh; forty others had been wounded, and the rest of the fugitives passed the cataracts, as far as Breebehs. This combat completed the destruction of the party of the mamluks. The arabian shechs perceiving the insufficiency of their strength, detached themselves from them, and came to Kench to make peace and alliance with the French.

The mamluks in general are fine men; many of them present the aspect of those african heroes of which the arabian history and romances give an idea. The history of one of this description, whom Bonaparte has brought into France, will convey some idea of their condition: he belonged to the chief Elbekri, one of the great lords of Kaira, a descendant of the khalifs; he was one of his favourites; he was to marry his daughter, and actually did the honours of the house, when, some days before Bonaparte left Kaira, the lord took into his head, at the conclusion of an entertainment he gave the general, to make him a present of him: He happened to be one of the servants who followed Bonaparte the day he left Kaira, and one of his establishment on his passage to Frejus.

In order to drive Murat from his retreat, Desaix prepared at Siut an expedition against the
oases,

oases, to be commanded by his aid-de-camp Savari, while general Belliard organized that which he was to lead to Koffeir. While M. Denon hesitated as to which he should accompany, Murat left Elwah, and the English appeared at Koffeir: all attention was now turned to this latter side; we assembled, says M. Denon, a great number of camels: three hundred and sixty-six of our party were to compose the caravan; each had a camel carrying the baggage and water necessary for each individual: two hundred camels were laden with articles of immediate necessity for a proposed establishment at Koffeir. To our caravan were joined the chiefs of the Arabs, who formed an alliance with us, and thus paid their court, by becoming our guides, scouts, escort and rear-guard; in the whole, the troop might contain a thousand or eleven hundred men, with as many camels. The sounding-to-horse produced a pleasant scene: the camel, slow as he is in his action, in rising, lifts his hind-legs with the greatest suddenness, as soon as his rider is mounted, he throws him first forward, then backward, and it is not till after his fourth motion, when he is completely on his legs, that he who mounts him finds himself upright: no one sat out the first shock; each laughed at his neighbour; a second attempt was made, and we departed. This happened on the twenty-sixth of May, in the forenoon, and, at four in the afternoon we arrived at Biralbar, The Well-of-Well's, a village on the border of the desert. Here we made halt, and after the camels

mels had ate and drank sufficiently, they were compelled to swallow a second ration of barley or beans, by putting it into their mouths.

The name Biralbar, or Well-of-Wells is derived from the two springs which are the only resource contained in this village: the water is sulphureous, but sweet, and cooled by nitre it contains. I dreaded the rolling gait of the camel, and the vivacity of the dromedary had made me apprehensive of being thrown over his head; but I was soon undeceived: once on the saddle, nothing more is necessary than to yield to the motion, and it is presently found to be the best possible mounting for a long journey, it requires no attention except when a new direction is to be taken, and this occurs but seldom in the desert, the camel stumbles little and never falls unless where there is water; the dromedaries are among camels what greyhounds are among dogs; they serve only for the saddle; they have a ring infibulated between their nostrils, through which is passed a pack-thread which serves as a bridle for stopping, turning, or causing him to kneel down, when his rider is desirous of descending; the pace of the dromedary is quick; the width of the angles formed by his long legs, and the softened spring of his fleshy foot, renders his trot more gentle, and yet it is as rapid as that of the fleetest horse.

Leaving Biralbar, we turned to the east, and entered into a large and long valley. In this journey I regretted Dolomieu, but citizen Rosiere supplied his place. We marched till two hours before

before midnight, in an order preserved with such a degree of sufficiency as allowed us all to take our posts in military order : each, close to his camel, spread his carpet, supped, and slept. At one in the morning, the drum was beat, and, five minutes afterwards, we were on our march, without difficulty or disorder. It is in the desert that we redouble our respect for that venerable animal the camel ; however hard his condition, he enters into its necessity, and conforms to it with patience ; nature has placed him in a region where, for the assistance he affords to man, his place could not be supplied by any other animal ; the sand is his element, as soon as he leaves it, and touches mud, he can scarcely support himself, his frequent falls and his embarrassment make us tremble for him, for his lading, or for his rider : but in the desert the camel is as a fish in the water.

We reached Kittah, by day-break, a spring in some degree remarkable for issuing from a flat more elevated than part of the country by which it is surrounded : here are three wells of six feet in depth, issuing from a rock of freestone, thro' which the water filters. There is a little caravanferay here also which shelters travellers, when they are too numerous. It is on this spot we obtain an idea of the importance of the wells so often mentioned in the Old Testament, and of the difficulty and expence of raising the most trifling building in places so insulated, and destitute of materials and means : in forming an establishment in Egypt, it would be necessary, however, to
form

form a garrison at Kittah, to preserve a communication between Koffeir and the Nile, and confine the Arabs, to whom this spring is a post which secures the mastery of a large tract of country. All the rest of the day, we marched without finding any change in the soil; the country rises insensibly, and the mountains approach each other from the right and left. Next morning, the scene changed; the mountains which we had met with on the day before were rocks of freestone, those of to-day were a mixture of granite, of porphyry, of serpentine, and of all sorts of primitive compositions, contained in an aggregation of green schist; the valley continually straitened, and the rocks, in every direction, increased in height. By noon, we had advanced half way towards Koffeir, into the midst of fine rocks of marble, which might be worked without any other difficulties than those occasioned by the distance of food: the particles of granite which compose this marble announce that the bed is not far off: after having seen these very rich rocks, we began to descend to a permanent spring, called El-More, which is found under a rock, and which produces excellent water: this not being sufficient for our numerous caravan, we passed to a second, composed of numerous wells, under a rock of very fine green schist, mingled with white quartz, which made this substance resemble the green marble of antiquity: it was only at this place, and that for about forty paces, that the road was strait, and gave a little difficulty to our artillery:

all

all the rest had been a well-fanded garden-alley ; the base of the rock was bared by a torrent when it rained ; and these floods of water, which continue only for a few hours, fall down, and, instead of sinking ravines, smoothen the valley.

The variegated forms and colours of the rocks began to take away from the desert its melancholy aspect, and to form almost a landscape: the country grew sonorous, the noise, reverberated in the vallies, seemed to us the awaking of nature: our soldiers crossed the sandy desert in the silence of taciturnity ; scarcely were they in the vallies before they began to speak ; arrived in the midst of the rocks, they gladdened the echoes with songs of gaiety, and the desert disappeared. The second spring, though abundant, was too much enclosed to afford satisfaction to the wants of all ; only a part had filled their leathern bottles, and we hastened to that of El-Adut, where the valley is more spacious, and where the water, though a little less fresh, is still very good: we dug a well which gave us excellent water in an instant ; this was the last, of a drinkable quality, we were to meet ; and, like the camels, we drank for the past and for the future ; all the bottles were filled and our store completed for the journey and for Koffeir, where we knew that it would be scarce and bad. It would be necessary to have at El-Adut a tower, a large cistern, and a caravanferay ; and, with this establishment, the transit from Koffeir to the Nile would be as commodious as any other route.

In proportion as we descended, the mountains lowered; they had ceased to be composed of rich and magnificent marbles, and were again become siliceous, intersected with quartz. We slept a few hours, after having marched eighteen. At day-break, we found the valley much widened, and it was presently crossed, on a sudden, by a reddish calcareous mountain, by which we proceeded to a very dark schistuous rock, beyond which we found more of the calcareous substance: here we met with the spring called Ambaji, but only the camels could drink of its water: if it be very abundant, it is also very mineral, and would not, perhaps, be less efficacious in the cure of many disorders than that of Spa and Barege; but here, where, thanks to the sterility of the soil and the sobriety of the inhabitants, there are few valetudinarians, and no physicians, it hides its glory under a black and mephitic vapour; and, as it purges those who can bear its austere savour, and increases instead of quenching their thirst, it passes for the most maleficent hamiadryad of the country: it has nourished seven or eight palm-trees, which form the only grove for fifty leagues around.

From the rarity of the atmosphere, I perceived that we were approaching the sea; and, following a large ravine, we presently saw it lose itself among the reefs which border the coast; in the horizon, a mist marked it to be that of Asia, the coast of which, however, is at too great a distance to be ever seen. The Ababdes-Arabs, led the
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van, and made haste to inform the inhabitants of Koffeir of our approach. These, with the shechs, advanced towards us, preceded by a flock of sheep, the first token of peace and of homage: the koffereine costume, which is that of Mekka, and that of the Ababdes, part of whom were naked, with the exception of a cloth round the waist, and who bore a lance in their hands, and a dagger attached to their left arms, and who were seated cross-legged on the lofty saddles of their sprightly dromedaries, altogether produced a spectacle full of singularity and interest: the Mekkans, of a more grave deportment, with the head-dresses of augurs, and clothed in long habits, with broad stripes, were mounted on tall camels.

At the meeting every one alighted: the troops were drawn up; and, after a conference of a few minutes, we all went in company to take possession of the castle, on which already waved the white flag of peace. Koffeir is more important than I expected; its fortress is an arabian edifice, in the style of the fortifications of Alexandria, forming a square of four curtains, flanked by four bastions, without ditches. It would be interesting to reconnoitre from Koffeir the road of Berenice, made by the Ptolemies at forty leagues to the south, at great charge, and abandoned for that of Koffeir, which, notwithstanding, can contain only a small number of merchant-vessels, its road being only from two fathom to two fathom and an half in depth: with all these obstacles, it

is, however, astonishing to find such commercial bustle here: but, when it is recollected that this is still the best known port in the Red-sea; that it is that which exports corn to Mekka, and which imports the coffee of Yemen; that it is the point of contact between Asia and Africa, and that it is capable of becoming the repository of the merchandize of these two parts of the world, it seems still more astonishing that a government can be so blindly rapacious as to have thought of nothing but taxing a commerce which would have recompensed it so largely for any advances it might have made, and to have left Koffeir without a custom house, without warehouses, and without even a single cistern. On arriving at this port, it had no water but what was brought from Asia, and of which each goblet cost a fous: but our soldiers found springs within 24 hours, and then we had for nothing better water than that which was sold so dear. If kept or heated it acquired a great bitterness; but, as it was become certain that water existed in the environs of Koffeir, we left the garrison that remained, and the indefatigable Douzelot, in the hope of finding some, in beds of clay, free from impregnation with any acrid and injurious substance.

The coast presents a spectacle of hideous poverty about Koffeir; but the sea is rich in fish, in shells, and in corals; so numerous are these latter, that it is possible they may have given the name of RED to this sea, although its sand is white: the reefs are composed but of corals and madrepores,
and

and these are in short the materials of all the rocks which about the shallows for a league and an half of the beach; this is an indication that the sea has retired, or that the banks have become more elevated than they formerly were. I thought to have made a collection of shells; they appeared to me as numerous as various; but the making of some drawings, and the preparations for my return, allowed me time only to make a tour along the coast, with the Ababdes-Arabs, our new allies: I mounted their dromedaries and was delighted with their swiftness and the convenience of their saddles. We gained all the esteem of these Arabs, by providing for the journey like them, manifesting confidence in going with them to a distance from Koffeir, and not returning till night, and in riding with their rapidity, so as to make a league in less than a quarter of an hour.

The young prince of those Arabs was attended by a favourite page, a youth with very fine eyes, and, who, at first sight, appeared a female. He rode a charming dromedary; all his clothing consisted in a piece of striped serge, which encircled his waist; he was armed with a lance, a sabre, and a javelin; his crisped locks which were not woolly, were perfumed. The young prince and his uncle were however completely clothed, in flowing habits: the complexions of these persons were but little tawney: in their characters, they were ostentatious, and selfish; but their manners were mild and polished, and their dispositions peaceable.

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In two days after our arrival, not to famish the garrison which we were to leave, we commenced our return: we were always preceded by our Arabs: on their march, they did not neglect a single product of their empire: we saw two ghazals, running along the desert, and four of their party pursued them with match-locks; some minutes after, we heard two single reports, and presently saw them returning with the two ghazals, fat as if they had inhabited the most abundant pasture: the Arabs invited me to eat of them, and, I went accordingly to their camp: the chief, haughty as a sovereign, found a palace wherever he spread his carpet; his kitchen furniture consisted in two plates of copper, and a pot of the same material; butter, flour, and a few sticks of wood furnished the contents of his household; a little stale camel-dung was collected, a kiln erected, and the flour being moistened, some baked cakes, which, while they were hot, I thought very good, were prepared in a few minutes; soup, boiled-meat, and roast-meat, composed a repast, very tolerable for an hungry man; but this, in the desert, I was wholly without: I lived on lemonade, which I made on my camel, by putting slices of lemon and sugar, into my mouth, and drinking water upon it. Our Arabs were aware to what degree of growth such and such plants must have arrived in a spot at a league from where we were, and thither they sent their camels to feed: this regale excepted, these poor animals ate only a small ration of beans once in the day, on which
they

they ruminated for the rest of the twenty-four hours, either as they marched, or as they lay on the burning sand, without testifying the least impatience; the camel never murmurs unless he be much overladen; he complains only of injustice, and not of this unless it be carried to great excess: love alone excites in him a degree of violence, and in the females this passion appeared to me to be more strong: I remarked that fatigue irritates rather than exhausts their temperament.

Our return was more rapid than our coming, having neither artillery or other lading, we reached Keneh in two days and an half; I was worn out with fatigue; it was only by eating water-melons, and plunging into the Nile, that I was able to slake my thirst. After a sojourn of eight days in the silence of the desert, I cannot describe what I experienced when, in the night, lying near the banks of the Nile, I heard the wind filtering through the thin leaves of the palm-trees which it agitated, all had awakened as it were; life was in the air, and nature seemed to breathe. I was convinced in this journey, made in the hottest season of the year, and of which all the perils have been exaggerated, that to dare it is to do it, and that the perils fly before those by whom they are braved. The hours of march employed upon this route, are invariable, because the pace of a laden camel is always the same; there can be no difference therefore, but what is accidental, and from the greater or less length of time given to halts and stations: all the other seasons of the
year

year are preferable to that in which we performed this expedition: in the winter, there is refreshment among the mountains, from rains of many hours continuance, and water is every where to be obtained from the same source. During the times of the kamseen, indeed, the traveller may experience hurricanes, by which however we were not affailed:—

Note of the hours of our march.

	hours.	min.
From Kenh to Biralbar - - -	3	50
To the sleeping-place in the desert	4	45
To arrive at Kittah - - - - -	3	30
To a sleeping-place - - - - -	4	30
To the first spring - - - - -	9	35
To the second, called El-Adut, -	0	45
To a sleeping-place - - - - -	4	30
To the spring of Ambaji - - -	8	45
To Koffeir - - - - -	1	45
Total hours of march - -	41	55

There is nothing wanting to the Mokatom but rocks of granite and of porphyry to give it all the characteristics of a primitive chain, and there is reason to believe that such rocks may exist at some points. Sand produced by the decomposition of calcareous stones, calcareous rocks, freestone, schist and marble, schist, freestone, calcareous stone, the broken surfaces of the rocks, present an image of the decrepitude of the mountains

tains of China. This valley, which has the reputation of containing mines of emeralds, discovered no indication of such treasures to the researches of Rosiere.

At this epoch, we had to lament the death of general Caffarelli, who joined to the most distinguished talents the zeal of truly philanthropic patriotism ; in him, every being possessed of intellect or of feeling lost a father and a friend. In making my drawings, I have often thought of the pleasure I should have in showing them to him, and in the praise that he would bestow upon my zeal : there is no reward comparable to the approbation of the individual we esteem.

We were become thirsty of the favours of the Nile ; we were aspiring to the luxury of imbibing its salutary water through our parched skin, when we found it had changed its nature : during the latter days of the kamseen, the current of the Nile slackened ; it lost its ordinary transparency and salubrity ; its water became green, and floated in muddy flakes, exhaling a marshy odour ; it was no longer the restorator of Egypt ; it languished, and would have terrified the inhabitants of its banks, were not its periodical regeneration a phenomenon as encouraging to them, as it is surprizing to the foreign observer : it diminishes till the sixteenth of June, remains two days in a state of stagnation, and on the eighteenth, it begins to increase. At this epoch, a residence in upper Egypt is almost insupportable ; the winds are variable ; they change incessantly from the

east to the south or south-west : this latter is terrible ; it agitates the atmosphere, veils the sun with a white dry and burning vapour ; it excites thirst, it parches the skin, it enflames the blood, it irritates the nerves, it renders existence painful, it oppresses the lungs, and one seeks involuntarily for another place to breathe, feeling as at the mouth of an ardent oven ; if the atmosphere be drawn up the nose, the brain is affected, and when the breath returns, blood seems to follow ; every thing that is touched is burning, and, in the night, itself, steel acquires the degree of heat that it would receive in France at noon, and during the dog-days.

The machine for raising the water of the Nile is called nahurah. It is a wheel which raises pots or mugs of water which are emptied by its revolution into troughs, which pass it into the furrows intersecting the lands. They are in general use over all Egypt ; and both horses and oxen are indifferently employed in working them. Here the tranquil farmer calculates his first harvest by the inundation, and his second and third by the number of acres which the cattle he possesses can irrigate.

The mechanism of the pot-wheel is simple :— Four circumferences, of about fifteen lines of square each, form the circle : these are sustained by small pieces of wood of the same square, placed perpendicularly to the plane of the wheel, and distant from each other the length of a pot : they serve at once to sustain the circle and to support

port the little boards which form the separations of the pots. This assemblage is consolidated by eight cross-pieces, nailed on the plane of the wheel, and sometimes bound together at the extremities, which are prolonged beyond the circumference of the wheel, with a cord, or little piece of wood : these cross-pieces serve to unite the wheel with its axis : four pieces of wood, nailed obliquely on the cross-pieces, and fixed into the wheel, increase its solidity. This carpentry is covered with boards of the thickness of about four lines.

There are other methods of raising water, in which human labour is alone employed : in one, the water is drawn up in pails formed of reeds, and emptied into a canal, which communicates with innumerable little furrows, after supplying these it is discharged into a basin whence, by a similar operation, it is raised four feet higher, in order that it may flow still further ; this machine is similar to the swing-wells seen in the villages of Europe : the labour is performed to measure, the labourers either singing, or counting numbers, or reciting the praises of God, or the virtues of Mohammed : while the proprietor sits by, with his pipe, reckoning his harvest by the inches of water. The women here fill their buff-skin bottles, which forms their principal occupation ; and the ablutions are performed, while the moslem turns his face towards the tomb of the prophet, in Mekka. There is another method which also raises the water ; the labourers dip the pail in slooping, raise

it in falling back, and empty it by loosening one of the cords ; here, the same measure is preserved as in the other.

The French made the tour of Sahmatah and Abu-Manah, the confines of the government of the Thebaid, at this period, in order to regulate, with the inhabitants, the works of the dykes and canals. The general was received as the governor of the province, by the kaimakam, who prepared for him, in a large court, well-watered, where water-melons and vessels of water exhaled a coolness in some degree abating the intemperance of the season ; in the evening, he gave a supper to the French, the shechs of the province, the detachment which accompanied the general, and the innumerable servants which were in his suite ; for this is a species of vermin here which breeds and feeds upon you, without your being able to prevent it, or to defend yourself from its injuries. If you have one domestic, you are sure to be served by another, who has never so much zeal as when he has no wages, and who never pays you real attention but while he is the servant of your servant ; but scarcely has this latter acquired a garment before he must have an horse, and next another officiator, who takes the third rank in your household, and proceeds like the rest ; this multitude of blood-suckers, with which the army was insensibly swelled, was more chargeable to the country, and destructive to its comfort, than the army itself ; they robbed with an atrocious audacity proportioned to the rank of their master,

ter, to whom they themselves became insolent as soon as they succeeded to the service of another still more powerful ; their robberies were always at the expense of the husbandman, the manufacturer, and every other useful class of the community. Every battle dispersed them in great numbers, but they returned to pillage. I have seen some, who were grooms at the commencement of a campaign, and, at its end, masters of three domestics, and, by promotions thus made among themselves, retaining no mark of servitude but that of holding the stirrup when their masters mounted, during which, there was a satellite at hand, to hold their pipe, or rather to testify to all eyes the dignity to which they were arrived. By degrees, however, we became accomplices in this corruption, and imbibed the spirit of the orientals, inasmuch, that we grew not to know how many attendants we would have. Of the domestic who served M. Denon during his stay in Egypt, he observes, that he was remarkable for his moral character, and for the graces of his person ; he adds, he gave up the idea of following me to France, because he could not resist the sorrow and the tears of his aged mother ; and this was the only creature that drew forth my tears on leaving Egypt : I consoled myself, by giving him a number of things, which made him, as I flatter myself, a little fortune.

At this supper, the kaimakam, on account of his great age, lay on a bed, and was served by his children. Only his grandson ate with him ; filial respect

respect not permitting the son to sit at table with the father, and etiquette being silent with respect to the grandson. A carpet was spread on the ground, around which sat all the guests. The general and his etat-major were at the upper end. The country-house of the kaimakam, at which this was held, had the air of being a mere out-yard, with a shed; but it was clean, cooled by perpetual waterings, decorated with fine carpets, and animated by a large assembly of persons, having each his suite, a magnificence in horses, in arms, a gravity, a noble decency, a profusion of servitors, incessantly bringing something to eat or drink. At first, this new species of luxury surprises; soon, it convinces that as well as that of Europe, it has its enjoyments, and compels submission to its charm; I passed two days in its centre, and I found my health considerably improved.

At the assembly of the shechs of the villages, were discussed the interests of the government, and of the husbandman; the prizes to be distributed to those distinguishing themselves during the ensuing year; for the year in Egypt may be begun at the epoch of the preparation of the canals for the reception and distribution of the waters of the inundation: at that time, all is finished for the past, and all is about to begin for the future. The assembly was held under a large sycamore, which afforded the best shade in the enclosure; and here all the shechs of the villages were consulted on
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the opening of the canals, and the quota of the expense to be furnished by each.

In these deliberations no novelties were proposed without the previous advice of the people ; and on terminating the sitting, it was said : “ This is like an assembly in the time of the shech prince Ammam, in which it was not arbitrary impositions that were treated of, but the things most beneficial to all.” This prince Ammam, a powerful Arab, during the troubles of Egypt, rendered himself independent, and reigned from Djirjeh to the limits of the upper Thebaid. The mamluks, considering him as a rebel, attacked, and destroyed his authority ; we have seen the unfortunate end of the last prince of the house, after the battle of Samanhut.

The French had a military tribunal, before which, causes wherein any of their countrymen were concerned, were determined. In holding the tribunal, the general was seated close to the flags of the republic, and behind him stood two interpreters, interested rogues, and, for the most part, paid by both parties.

The day after the supper of the kaimakam, the villagers of Abu-Manah gave us a dinner in the same style of hospitality, though with manners less refined. Though supplied with an abundant repast, they waited with impatience till we had done, that they might scramble with each other for what we had left.

There were three brothers at Kench, very rich, powerful, sensible, and well-informed. M. De-

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non was a constant visitor at their house, where he often ate in a familiar manner. Without an interpreter, they grew to understand each other, and spent their time together with cheerfulness and pleasure. One, to whom M. Denon was most attached, told him that, in order to establish confidence between them, they ought to create a relationship. M. Denon accordingly proposed that he should be his son. This title the latter accepted with tenderness, and ever after, behaving as with duty, made it an excuse for civilities, bringing him scarce fruits, perfumes, and exquisite coffee. In return, he accepted things of no value, always saying that M. Denon owed him nothing but protection and kindness. A delicate taste, adds the latter, gives a polish to the same manners in Africa as in the most refined courts of Europe.

Citizen Gerard, and eight members of the commission of the arts, ascended the Nile, in order to take the levels: this circumstance, says M. Denon, enabled me to recommence my pursuits. I now examined the zodiac which is on the ceiling of the temple of Tintyra. This is surrounded by two large figures which seem to represent the year. They have a winged sign before their mouths, which seems to represent eternity, or the passage of the sun to the solstices. A disk, which represents the sun, is at the juncture of the thighs of the figures, and from it a pencil of rays emanates, which falls on an head of Isis, who represents either the moon or the earth. The sun,
placed

placed in the sign of cancer, may serve as the date of the erection of the temple; the figures affixed to the signs, the fixed stars; those in barks, the moving stars, the planets, and the comets.

M. Denon now enriched his collection of these new proofs of the astronomical knowledge of the Egyptians, which, examined and discussed, must serve to unveil the mysteries, or to cause them to be abandoned for ever. He possessed himself of many details relative to the arts. He discovered the outlines of a figure, in red chalk, of which the squares had been covered with a thin stucco; a method which the Egyptians doubtlessly employed to give their low-reliefs a better effect, and paint them in a more indestructible manner. The subject appears to be the son of Isis and Osiris, who is offering to Osiris an emblem of the head of Isis. The present subject is on one of the columns of the portico, covered with stucco and painted; the stucco in part scaled off, discovered lines as if marked with blood; curiosity induced him to lift the remainder of the stucco, and he found the outline of a figure, with the squares of the design, composing twenty-five parts, the hip being inserted in the centre of the height, and the head occupied rather less than the seventh part. Hence it is certain that the Egyptians had a canon for the proportions of their figures. M. Denon found close to this regular figure, outlines traced, two or three thousand years subsequently, by the same christians of the primitive ages who destroyed the sculptures of the egyptian worship,

and who, with all the bungling of the most unskilful barbarism, had attempted to draw the figure of one of their bishops, with his mitre and crozier.

We have here the mode of the Egyptians for preventing errors and ignoble proportions, and obtaining that constant equality which is remarkable in their works, and which, if it were injurious to the effusions of genius, and a delicacy of sentiment, tended to an uniform perfection, made a trade of the art, and rendered sculpture an accessory adapted to the decoration and enrichment of architecture, a method of expression, a method of writing; and this is that to which in Egypt, it was for the most part reduced. The human figure, according to the Egyptian principles, was divided into twenty-five parts and an half, of which the head was an eighth part of the whole, and these were the proportions adhered to by the Greeks in their heroic sculptures.

Among the objects at Tintyra, a little hare demonstrates that, in figures of a trivial kind the artists could indulge a degree of cheerfulness, when they were not bound by the rites of religion or by custom. Here are also various military ensigns, and a large collection of animals, in which subjects the Egyptians may be said to have excelled, and in which the grandeur and simplicity of the lines often reach ideal beauty: it was always in forgotten corners, in chambers condemned to perpetual obscurity, that M. Denon found the most elaborate and best preserved

served relics. One is astonished at this equality of attention throughout the parts of a great whole, at this minute execution, this finish, the fruit of perseverance, this tenacious constancy, which resembles the monastic spirit, of which the zeal never dies nor cools, of which the pride is that of an whole body, not of an individual.

In the open apartment on the roof of Tintyris, there is the sacrifice of an ox to Osiris. The sacrificator presents the thigh and the heart to Osiris. M. Denon remarked that wherever he met with the representations of sacrifices or of offerings, that it was always these two parts of the body that were preferred. There are trifling differences between the costume of the killer of the victim, the sacrificators and the offerer of the sacrifice, whence it appears that a long habit was the most noble and the most respected,

The Nile began to increase on the twenty-fifth of June; it rose an inch on this, and on each of the two following days; afterwards, it rose two inches each day, and then three; and the water, without becoming muddy, ceased to be green.

It was proposed to make an excursion to reconnoitre the canals, and the improvements to be made. The heats were insupportable; the west wind oppressed us; caused us bleedings at the nose, and painful swellings which alternately covered all parts of the body, parching the skin, and rendering transpiration difficult; the rays of the sun created a sensation in every pore of the skin similar to that produced by the small-pox,

and which became insupportable when, in lying down, it was necessary to press on all these painful points. I was tormented like the rest; but I regretted not having seen the tombs of the kings at Thebes, and I commenced the journey with the detachment. On the 23d of July, the sun, now at the solstice, boiled our blood: two soldiers fainted as they came out of Kench; and, on the next day, fifteen others were incapable of proceeding; I am sure that if we had not been, by this time, somewhat accustomed to the climate, we could not have held out. We were obliged to make shorter journies, and to march in the mornings. Notwithstanding all this, the country was alive again; the whole population, under the presidency of the shechs, was employed in clearing the canals; and the fields, deserted four months before, were covered with animals, grazing in tranquillity.

We staid two days at Kus; on the third day, we arrived at Karnac. Among the new discoveries which I made among the ruins of the temple, I may cite a figure which I perceived on the exterior walls of the little edifices beside the sanctuary; it was that of a person making an offering to two obelisks: I remarked also the door of a temple which had two bolts, and was fastened with the same wooden lock as that at present used in Egypt, and which equally secure the gate of the city, the door of the house, and the lid of the chest: simple in its conception, easy in its manufacture,

facture, and as much to be depended on as other locks, it ought to fasten all our rural enclosures.

I shall add to the descriptions I have already given of this structure, that, at the southern part of the first court, there is a private edifice, composed of a wall of enclosure, and a door opening into a court surrounded by a gallery, decorated with pilasters, before which are figures with crossed arms, holding in the one hand a scourge and in the other a sort of hook ; two second lateral galleries, five anti-chambers in the innermost part, and five chambers behind ; the whole terminated by another gallery, with passages running into the lateral courts of the temple. Was this the palace, or the splendid prison of the kings ? What lead to this belief are figures sculptured on the lateral parts of the doors, representing heroes holding subjugated figures by the hair ; and divinities offering them new arms, as if to promise them new victories on having recourse to their favour. There seems to be some analogy between this and what Herodotus has transmitted of the obligation under which kings lay to be served, counselled, and always accompanied, by priests, constrained every morning to hear lectures on their duty, and to go afterwards to the temple, to make homage of their authority to the divinity, and acknowledge that they held it, and could retain it but through it ? further, a regimen like this might lead to the belief that, in order not to prevent rebellion, these crowned slaves were lodged within the precincts of the temple.

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This temple is of a nature to appear fantastic to those who have not had ocular proof of the existence of so vast a production: situate at three or four hundred toises from the banks of the Nile, its principal entrance proceeds from the west to the east; two great colossuses were placed before the door, and flanked by two enormous moles. Behind these, is a vast court, divided into two parts, by an avenue of columns; only one of these columns is standing: in the left portion of the court is an open gallery, with little lodging rooms or cells: on the right, a private edifice, which bears, more than any other part of the structure, some resemblance to a palace, having a separate door, an interior court, decorated with galleries, behind which is a suite of chambers, and a lateral gallery leading to the grand portico, which is the most extraordinary monument of egyptian magnificence, an avenue of twenty columns, of eleven feet in diameter, and two clusters, of forty columns each, bearing an architrave, platband, and cieling. One is more than surprized by this prodigious magnificence, one is humiliated by a comparison between our edifices and these: the whole of this portico is still standing; the earth has given way in several places, and caused several columns to incline from the perpendicular, and thus produced breaches in several parts of the cieling: the tops of these covered places must have served for terraces, to walk on when the sun was below the horizon. The avenue, composed of the largest columns, had also its platform; the
portal

portal produced by its elevation was laterally decorated with an attic, in pilasters, with a stone lattice, which gave a mysterious air and light to this forest of columns; this avenue was terminated by a third door, which is an entire ruin; on its right and left are chambers incumbered with ruins. In the court which follows the third door are four obelisks, the workmanship of which is perfected with hieroglyphics. These monuments, so simple, so chaste, so precious in their execution, the most perfect and the most elegant productions of egyptian architecture, those of which the execution declares at once the solidity of taste, and the boldness of enterprize, those which only a combination of all the arts could execute, were here lavished to decorate the entrance of a little sanctuary, for which it would seem that all the rest of the edifice was built; a distribution which produces a contrast that is itself, perhaps, another magic operation of the art, that of striking the mind with respect for the sanctity of the tabernacle which occupies the centre of all these edifices: this holy of holies is constructed of granite, and covered with hieroglyphics, every one of which represents offerings to the god of abundance and generation, the image of which is repeated in all parts of the temple, with the same attributes, and the same distinctness. On each side of the sanctuary is a little apartment, and behind it two other buildings; before which are two columniated porticoes, which open into an immense court, bordered with close galleries, and

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terminated by an open one, borne by columns and pilasters, with and without capitals: the very projecting cornice of this gallery forms a sort of pent-house; another, parallel to this, leaves an open space between it and a series of cellules; and round the whole is a wall of circumvallation, covered with hieroglyphics. Beyond this in a right line is the eastern door, which is still in good preservation; the northern door was probably preceded by sphinxes, as the substructions of the bases by which they were supported still remain. To the south-east of the great temple ruins are scattered, and remnants of walls, which evince constructions of the smallest proportions. Were the habitations of the kings, the nobles and the priests here? In returning to the west there are two moles, overthrown, between which are ruined doors; within and without still are torques of colossal figures in white marble and red freestone; the galleries that are destroyed formed a court terminated by other moles, similarly decorated; the door which united them is fallen; the chambranes, now in their place, are of granite, and are covered with hieroglyphics remarkable for the freedom of the chiseling, and the high finishing of the figures. The Egyptians certainly gave a peculiar temper to the tools* with which they worked in granite. Another court led to a sanc-

* Those tools were made of brass, which renders it the more extraordinary.

tuary, which is now so much destroyed that the plan is almost indiscernible: the exterior of this edifice was preceded by one of the famous avenues of sphinxes with human heads; this second avenue intersects the grand one, which, from the temple of Luxor, at the distance of a mile, leads to the southern door; the sphinxes in this latter have the head of a ram, and hold between their fore-paws little sanctuaries, on which are figures of Isis: the mutilated bodies of these sphinxes, in the midst of palm-trees, still present an august and imposing aspect: the door was preceded by two moles, the space between which was again decorated with sphinxes, of which only a few remain: these two moles were followed by an open portico of twenty-eight columns, which formed an interior court, of a style still more grave and a sanctuary still more mysterious than any we before had met with. Close adjoining is another temple, and then a general enclosure, the ruins of which form a little chain of mountains, surrounding two lakes, and more ruins, of which the forms are lost. One is fatigued with describing, one is fatigued with the thought of a plan like this; one is unable to give credit, even after having seen it, to the reality of so many structures, erected on the same spot, to the vastness of their dimensions, and to the persevering labour required for their formation.

At Luxor, where we dined, a little crocodile, of six inches in length, was brought to the general. The terror with which this animal fills the

Egyptians, had made the man who caught it kill it on the instant, so that we lost again the opportunity of learning the habits of this creature. What is said of the antipathy of the ichneumon to the crocodile, and, of its not only eating its eggs, but, when the opportunity offers, of leaping into its throat, and devouring its intestines, is one of the ridiculous fables of which the crocodile is the subject. These two animals never have any occasion to quarrel; they do not inhabit the same shallows; there are no crocodiles in lower, and there are no ichneumons in upper Egypt.

The ichneumon, or rat of Pharaoh, is of the family of the mangoustes: he generally dwells among the reeds, and marshes, near villages, from which he steals chickens and eggs; I have seen ichneumons as large as an otter, and with the same coat.

In viewing the temple of Luxor, one is at first surprized to see the central line of the edifice false in several places; but the causes of this may be easily discovered; the first is, that being built at various epochs, as almost all the temples of Egypt were, that part which is to the south was the first raised; next, the quay was formed, and faced to resist the current, which runs against the bank; and yet the river still menaces to alter its operations, and commence the destruction of the temple by the other side: the greater court and its galleries, subsequently constructed, have been placed in a different direction, as it was necessary to follow the elevated flat, and the calcareous rock,
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which alone could serve for the foundation of these heavy masses ; it is possible also that these, and an avenue of columns by which they are followed, were formed only to harmonize and unite a still more remote building with the sanctuary, for the two extreme parts appear the more antient, both from their style and colour. The third opinion is, that the Egyptians, having appeared always ready to sacrifice geometrical rectitude and symmetrical regularity, have in this instance renounced them for perspective effects. The extent of these edifices do not, at first sight, permit the irregularities of their plan to be distinguished, and the falsehood of the central line has produced richer effects than those that would have been afforded by a geometrical view. The Egyptians thought only of grand effects ; an example of which may be cited in the door of the edifice in question ; architecture never produced a finer conception, composed of fewer lines, and displaying a grander effect ; and yet the two obelisks are not of equal height ; the two statues are not correspondent ; the sculptures which cover the moles are not symetric ; but all is too grand, too magnificent, to allow of quarrelling with lines. That which ought to increase astonishment is, that it was known how to add, in so august a manner, embellishments to these edifices, when already become antique. On comparison of the workmanship and style of the sculpture, it is evident that the obelisks and statues were posteriorly placed before the door, already antiently built ; there is

every probability that an avenue of sphinxes extended from the temple of Karnac to this door ; I followed the avenue in this direction for more than half the space which there is between these two edifices, and which is more than a mile in length. Edifices like these seem to be visions, or tales of giants. A part of the extremity at which are the moles and obelisks, still serves for a moska to the village of Luxor, and is the finest moska in all upper Egypt. The scite on which stood a wing, probably corresponding with that now used as a moska, is covered with houses. Adjoining the moska was a private sanctuary, dedicated, according to all appearance, to some particular divinity ; as, among us, we see the chapel of saint Thomas, in the church of saint John. Near the principal sanctuary, a part of the building has served for a christian church, of which little remains. Two passages, adjoining, seem to have been formed only as stair-cases ascending to the tops, on which I imagine there were tents and canopies, in which it must have been agreeable to reside, on account of the view and of the air :—the present inhabitants still feel this convenience, and have built their houses on this lofty station.—The original entrance to the temple was at this extremity ; the corridor which insulates the sanctuary, inspires the mysterious and holy sentiment of a tabernacle ; its ornaments are elaborate ; it is the part most enriched by sculpture, and most rich in its detail ; it is the smallest, the most magnificent, and the most characteristic piece of the

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the whole ; it is the holy of holies. The egyptian artists were well acquainted with this part of their designs, this magic of the art, acting on the mind through the senses, this increase of interest, by the mystery of a dull and almost extinguished light, this dramatical progression, as it may be called, producing the profoundest sensations, those most analogous to the religion and the government of the Egyptians, to second, in a word, the empire of mystery. Let no one say, that their's was the infancy of the art ; it was the *ne plus ultra* of its perfection. In every part of this edifice, which is the best preserved, and the most considerable of all Egypt, the hovels of a numerous population are placed. Like the summer and winter habitations of Kamtschatka, some are on the roofs, and some in the embrasures of the columns.

The landscape presented by this, the richest, most picturesque, and best preserved ruin that remains of the most remote historical ages, and has an effect the most brilliant, and the most favourable to painting. The foreground is arid, of a mild yellow, from which the groups of figures detach themselves in the most distinct manner ; the golden colour of the noble architecture, its fine forms, its broad shadows, broken by the picturesque buildings of the Arabs, the beauty of the river, reflecting the azure of the finest of skies, and momentarily enlivened by the motion of vessels at full sail, winding among the sandy or cultivated islands, a verdant and fruitful plain
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covered with trees, and sublime edifices, terminate a horizon diversified with mountains, the summits of which produce the finest effect.

There is a mixture of meanness and magnificence in the entrance of the village of Luxor! what a scale of ages for Egypt! what grandeur and simplicity in the same piece! it appeared to me most picturesque and a scene of contrast the most decisive on the history of years antient and modern; never have my imagination and my eyes been more sensibly struck than by the sight of this group. I returned again and again to amuse and to enjoy the past and the present, to compare the fabrics, in order to compare the people, and to store up volumes of recollections and reflections. The two obelisks, of red granite, are still seventy feet above the ground; and, to judge by the burying of the figures, thirty feet more must be sunk: yet their preservation is perfect; the hieroglyphics, deeply cut, and in relief at the bottom of the hollow, are of a free touch and high finish. The two colossuses of the same granite are destroyed, but the parts preserved declare that they were finished in the most elaborate manner: it may be remarked that the practice of piercing the ears was known to the Egyptians; those of these figures bear the proof. The two great moles are covered with sculptures, representing combats with chariots drawn up in lines, with two horses, and one warrior, to each.

The next day, we went to Salamier; and from thence Belliard pushed his reconnoitring further; and

and I went in search of Apollinopolis. We went to sleep at Bassalieh, a country house of Hassinbey, situate on the steep bank of the Nile, without a single tree to refresh the eyes, and opposite the bald and burning rock of the Mokatam. We were unable to imagine the motive for building a house of recreation at a place like this; bad walls opened by bad doors composed all its charms. From the windows we saw nothing but crocodiles, which, in this part of the Nile, are as bulky as they are numerous. On our arrival, there lay one on the strand, so large that I mistook it for the trunk of a palm-tree; a deception from which I was released only by its flight.

Between Bassalieh and el-Moecat, we saw a monticule of bricks, called Koum-el-Aemart, at the southern extremity of which is the substruction of an egyptian temple; this unknown ruin has escaped all geographers and travellers antient and modern. Are these the ruins of Silsilis, the city that has given its name to the quarries which are within a short distance?

I arrived for the third time at Edfu. I thought its temple still more magnificent than before. I was convinced that if that of Tyntyris be the more scientific this is the more majestic: I had been promised a day's stay, but I was allowed only an afternoon's; beside this the atmosphere was so heated I could scarcely remain from under cover.

The entrance of this temple is a door between two moles of the pyramidical form. This door

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was from forty-five to fifty feet in height, and moved on hinges of which no traces remain but the mortis in which they were fixed. Without side the door are two projecting stones resembling those at the door of the Museum-Clementinum. Within side, each of the moles is distributed into three parts, the centre is occupied by a winding stair-case, with low steps, which leads to two melancholy chambers, of which the use remains to be discovered; these stair-cases terminate on two platforms, which might be used for observatories, or for military watch-towers, commanding all the circumjacent country. The interior court is surrounded on three sides by galleries, supporting terraces, and supported by columns of a less diameter and elevation than those of the portico, which is on the fourth, and of which they seem to exalt the majesty. The rubbish in this court has buried the columns to one third of their height, and closed the doors which opens into the several chambers of the nave of the temple: this part of the edifice serves at present only for the magazines of those who have their houses on its roof. This edifice, is more than five hundred French feet in length, and is constructed with a freestone which has the equality and richness of marble, it is wholly covered with hieroglyphics, sculptured in a manner so highly finished that the workmanship appears rather to have been cast in bronze, and chased, than sculptured.

Amongst the buildings on the roof, M. Denon found a breach through which he entered one of
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the chambers of the nave, and which he supposed must have been the second from the portico, and that which immediately preceded the sanctuary. As much of the sculpture as the heaps of filth permitted him to see was highly finished and in exquisite taste; the stone employed in this edifice being finer than that of any other, all the labours bestowed upon it has the freedom, the delicacy, and the determination of marble.

The French, by night, left Edfu and returned to Esneh, greatly fatigued with their march: they saw, however, that though they were almost perpendicularly under the sun, the intolerable heat had ceased with the kamseen, and that, though the north-wind became torrid as it passed along the soils of Egypt, which were then destitute of vegetables, it did not cause the oppression of the stiflers of the east, or of the devouring whirlwinds of the west. M. Denon could only relieve the pricking of his pimples and the itching of his blisters, by incessant bathing, even in the presence of the crocodiles, whom he had by this time learned to brave: he added to these constant bathings a vegetable regimen; he ate no flesh, and very little of any thing else, and yet, notwithstanding this abstemious diet, he could scarcely procure a few hours of uninterrupted sleep.

After having increased two inches a day for several days, the Nile came by progression to increase a foot: at this period, its waters became muddy, an indication that, in its progress, it crosses some great lakes, of which it drives the

limpid waters before it, and that the stream arrives clear in Egypt till increased by the rains of Abyssinia, which manifest themselves by their colour.

On returning to Esneh, M. Denon visited the temple which is on the right of the route of Harment; an unstable soil, or bad foundations, had occasioned decays by which a part of the columns are deranged from their perpendicularity, and the destruction of the cieling of the temple facilitated. He took the plan of the edifice, in order to retain some idea of its distribution, of its perfect condition, and of some peculiarities, such as the double facings of the lateral walls of the porticoes, which leave between them a vacuum, of which it is difficult to suppose the purpose.

The chambers in the rear of the portico are small, and neglected as to decoration; the sanctuary is entirely destroyed; it is evident from the remnants of the substructions, and from what remains of the walls that encloses the ruins of the two chambers that are still standing, that there has been an exterior gallery all round the temple. The diggings, lately made by order of Hassenbey, have ascertained that the edifice was prolonged beyond the portico; its ruins consist of eight columns, with capitals evases, each varied in its decorated ornaments, as the vine, the ivy, the palm-leaf, and the stages of fructification. Bricks of a great size, of perfect form and manufacture, manifest that the edifices which surrounded this temple

temple were built with much attention. Could this, says M. Denon, be Aphroditopolis, which Strabo places very near this place, too close, as I think, to Latopolis, which is Esneh? the rubbish which remains extends over so small a space that it may be inferred all which was built round this edifice depended upon it. No eminence, no desert, naked or indurated soil, affords room even to suspect the existence of any other structures; and nothing is more easy than to distinguish a site which has been occupied by a population great or small: there is reason, therefore, to imagine that there were in Egypt, in the neighbourhood of cities, convents, sanctuaries, and species of insulated chapels, as, among us, there are madonas, saints, and miraculous grottoes, where religious zeal is rekindled by silence and by mystery. The temple contiguous to Knubis, and that which is found on the right bank, opposite Esneh, are other instances of this kind of temple. The hieroglyphics which cover what remains of the walls, exterior and interior of the portico, are of mean style and poor execution: there are some astronomical figures on the cieling, which, though very rudely executed, evinces that these temples were consecrated to astronomy, to the history of the heavens and of time, and to those of the epochs determined by the motion of the stars.

We had heard of a koptic convent to the west of Esneh containing marvellous things: I hastened thither: a soil watered by the blood of innumerable martyrs has come to be revered by all the

christians of Egypt, whose indefatigable zeal daily repairs, at great expence, the devastations committed by the mamluks whenever they wish to punish them for delay in the payment of the taxes they impose. The entire of this immense fabric is marked with the various epochs of the injuries it has sustained and the ignorance of those by whom it has been repaired. At the time I visited it, some vast reparations had been just finished, the convent having suffered by the rage of the beys, on their being compelled to leave Esneh, The sum necessary for these works, thus employed in the particular crisis in which Egypt still was, appeared to me to be still more extravagant, and sufficient to give an idea of the enthusiasm and opulence of this sect, which affects an exterior of so much humility and poverty.

I went to take my leave of the portico of Esneh, which I consider the purest fragment of egyptian architecture, and, I may venture to affirm it to be one of the most perfect monuments of antiquity; I searched with attention, and was surprized to discover no representation of the fish latus, of which the city bore the name.

On the seventh of August we left Esneh: we passed before Asfun, about two leagues from Esneh: this village is raised upon vast heaps of rubbish: and it would be more natural to look for Aphroditopolis, Asphinis, or Asphunis, at this place, than among the temples which I lately visited. What is said by Strabo of this city agrees better with the distance of Latopolis, and the affinity

finity of the name Asfun with Asphunis, an affinity of which there are a number of examples in Egypt, inclines me the more to this opinion. Sofinis, at a league and an half further, has also its eminences: these two villages are destitute of monuments. Digging perhaps will one day prove to which of those two belongs the honour of having been the city of Venus. After having marched in the burning sun the whole day, we arrived almost roasted at Hermontis: the heat of the atmosphere was become somewhat less stifling, but the rays of the sun were not less scorching: it may nevertheless be said that the period of the increasing of the Nile, in which the wind blows from the north, is that in which the heat of the Egyptian summer ceases to be insupportable: it is sufficient to avoid the rays of the sun for six hours, that is from nine o'clock till three; for the rest of the day, the atmosphere is rare, and the nights are clear and cool: but as the object of our journey had been to reconnoitre the canals, and establish the arrangement of the labours of the country, we were obliged to march during the hottest hours of the day, in order to find the labourers, and in continuance of this several of our men died with heat; nothing is so awful as this death; the victim is suddenly surprized with a complaint in his heart, and no aid can save him from the faintings which ensue, and in which he dies: even horses experienced the same death.

We beheld with satisfaction that the prospect of enjoying the fruits of our labours had anticipated

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our wishes ; the fields were filled with labourers, cleansing the canals, already more than half emptied ; they left their employment only to bring water and melons to our soldiers, by whose pacific countenances they were no longer alarmed. Another circumstance, favourable to the country and to us, was, that the villages agreed among themselves, to abolish the COMPOSITION FOR BLOOD, and refer to our justice the punishment of crimes. The composition for blood, the offspring of prejudice and barbarism, erects barricades between one part of the country and the other, and intercepts all communication ; if a private person has a quarrel, or that accident causes the death of any one, vengeance, or honour misunderstood, multiplies reprisal upon reprisal ; and hence are produced eternal wars. The people move in strength of numbers and in arms ; visits are expeditions ; roads are unsafe, as nothing is met with but the most miserable foot soldiers, who increase the insecurity of travellers. The oblivion of past offences was, therefore, owing to the influence of the justice of our government. Another happiness for persons of property was that of being permitted to display their wealth with impunity, to wear better clothing than they had ever, prior to this, dared to put on, and to eat together without the fear of oppression, or an increase of taxation. We were frequently invited, and hospitably entertained, by well-dressed people, who, full of information, spoke with sensibility of our interests and of their own ; of our errors, and
their

their own wants ; and talked of Defaix with esteem and confidence ; I foresaw, with pleasure, the epoch at which prosperity was about to double the population, with which the manufactures and arts should be rendered tributary to the political weal ; with which, in a word, to occupy the multitude, the government should be obliged to set it, as heretofore, at raising pyramids.

We approached Thebes, and I was now about to see its tombs of the kings, the last remaining monuments of antiquity, with which I had to satisfy my curiosity on this interesting territory ;—but, as if fate had always envied me complete gratifications of this nature, I saw the moment in which these fabrics, after a painful march of more than fifty leagues, were to appear, still going to escape. Availing myself, however, of the security which had been established, I galloped forward to catch some features of the ruins of the temples of Medinet-Abu, where the troop would take me up in passing, and I arrived an hour before it. I observed on the right of the temple, which adjoins the village, a square edifice, which had been a palace, very diminutive indeed, but to which the neighbouring porticoes would have served for additions, especially as galleries of columns and terraces, are apartments in this climate. This palace has a character differing much from that of all other edifices, both in its plan, in its double story of square windows, and in a sort of balconies, each of which are supported by four heads, in the attitude of caryatides. It is to be regretted

regretted, that this private edifice is in a state of destruction, especially in its interior, and that what remains of its exterior decoration has been much injured; the sculptures on the exterior walls, as in that part of the temple of Karnac which I suspect to have been a palace, represent kings threatening whole groups of prostrate captives.

Still keeping before the troop, and pressed forward by its march, I hastened to the two colossuses, and saw them with the effect of the rising sun, at the hour in which it was usual to go hear that of Memnon speak: after this, I went to the insulated palace called the MEMNONIUM; but while I neglected to observe, my companions neglected to warn me, and I perceived the detachment had left me half a league in its rear; I hastened to rejoin it. The troop was fatigued, and it was again become a question whether the expedition to the tombs should take place. I suppressed in silence the anger I felt; and probably this silence gained more than my discontent, if expressed, could have done, for, in the end, the route was proceeded on. We crossed the village of Kurnu, the ancient Necropolis: on approaching these excavated abodes, the inhabitants, for the third time, saluted us with several discharges of musketry. This was the only spot in upper Egypt, which refused to acknowledge our government; secure in their sepulchral retreats, they left them only to terrify mankind: guilty of many other crimes, they concealed their remorse, and fortified their disobedience

bedience, in the obscurity of these subterraneous dwellings, which are so numerous that they alone attest the immense population of antient Thebes. It was through these humble tombs that the kings were carried two leagues from their palace, into the silent valley that was to become their last dwelling. This valley lies to the north-east of Thebes, and straitens insensibly; flanked by steep mountains, time has effected but trivial changes in its antique forms; towards its extremity, the opening of the rocks still scarcely affords space for a passage to the tombs, especially for the sumptuous trains which probably accompanied ceremonies of this nature, and which must have produced a striking contrast with the austere asperity of these wild rocks. Yet, it is to be believed, that this road was taken only for the sake of more superb display, for the valley, from its entrance to its extremity, tending wholly to the south, the point at which are the tombs, can be but a very short distance from the memnonium; and nevertheless it was not till after three quarters of an hour's march in this desert, that, in the midst of the rocks, we suddenly found the openings, even with the ground; at first they present no other architectural ornament than a door, with plain chambranles, of a square form, decorated on the superior part with a flattened oval, on which are inscribed in hieroglyphics a SCARABÆUS (or emblem of wisdom); a figure of a man with the head of a sparrow-hawk; and two figures on their knees, in the attitude of adoration. On passing

the first door, long galleries present themselves, of twelve feet in width, by twenty in height, lined with stucco, sculptured and painted; the roofs of the vaults are formed in elegant elliptic arches, and covered with hieroglyphics, disposed with so much taste, that, notwithstanding the uncouthness of their forms, and although there are neither middle-tint nor aerial perspective in these paintings, yet the cielings present an agreeable appearance, and a variety of colours, of which the effect is rich and imposing.

It would be necessary to stay some weeks in order to form a system on the subjects of pictures so numerous, and so mysterious; but I was allowed only a few minutes, and these with a bad grace. I examined every thing hastily. Preceded by a torch, I only passed from tomb to tomb.—At the bottom of the galleries, the sarcophagi, of a single block of granite each, of twelve feet in length and eight in width, were embellished within side and without with hieroglyphics:—rounded at one end, squared at the other, like that of saint Athanasia at Alexandria, these tombs were covered by lids of the same material, and proportionate bulk, closing with grooves. Neither these precautions, nor these huge masses, brought from such a distance and at so great an expense, have been able to save the remains of the kings from the attacks of avarice, for all these tombs have been violated. On the first we find, the figure of a king, or of some protecting divinity, is sculptured on the lid of the sarcophagus: this figure

figure is so worn that it cannot be distinguished by its costume, whether it was that of a king, a priest or a divinity. In the other tombs, the sepulchral chamber is surrounded by a portico, reared on pilasters; the galleries and chambers are sustained in the same manner; and the lateral chambers, hollowed in the rock, are covered with white and fine stucco, on which are painted coloured hieroglyphics, still in wonderful preservation. With the exception of two out of the eight tombs I visited, into which water had penetrated, and which have been injured breast-high, all the ornaments and the paintings are as fresh as if they were but just finished: the colours of the ceilings, with yellow figures on a blue ground, are in a style that would adorn our most splendid saloons.

The trumpet had sounded to horse, when I had discovered some little chambers, on the walls of which were painted representations of various sorts of arms, maces, coats of mail, tiger skins, bows, arrows, quivers, pikes, darts, sabres, helmets, goads, and whips; in another, household utensils, such as cabinets, commodes, chairs, elbow-chairs, stools, and folding mattresses, of an elegant form, and similar to those we most admire as the productions of our cabinet-makers, when guided by skilful designers: as painting only copies things which have existence, we must infer that the Egyptians employed indian wood, sculptured and gilt, for their furniture, and brocaded silks for the coverings: to these were added, a

variety of vessels, such as vases, coffee-pots, a ewer and its salver, a tea-pot*, and a basket.— Another chamber was decorated with agricultural implements and labours; as, a plough, nearly such as that used at present, a man sowing grain on the banks of a canal, from which the inundation has retired, a reaping with the sickle, and rice-fields tilling. In a fourth is a figure in white clothing, playing on an harp of eleven strings; the harp sculptured with ornaments of the same tint and the same wood as those now in use amongst ourselves. How could I, without regret, haste from these precious curiosities? I begged with earnestness for a quarter of an hour; and was granted twenty minutes; one person lit the way, while another held a torch to each object which attracted my attention. I remarked several figures without heads, and some with their heads just cut off: these were all of black men, and those who beheaded them, and who still held the sword of death, were red: were these human sacrifices? or acts of justice, in the punishment of guilt? I observed every thing I met with, and put into my pockets all the little fragments I found; among which was a small patera, of baked earth, worthy of the best age of the arts, among any nation by which they have been most liberally encouraged; figures of divinities in sycamore-

* Hence it would appear both coffee and tea were in use amongst the Egyptians.

TRANSLATOR.

wood, carved with great freedom; locks of fine, soft, flaxen hair; a little foot of a mummy which does not less honour to nature, than the other fragments do to art, and which was probably the foot of a young lady, or a princess of a beautiful person, of which the form, naturally perfect, was never injured by wearing shoes. In obtaining this, I seemed to obtain a prize, and to commit an amorous larceny on the family of the Pharaohs!

In the inventory which was made by M. Denon, are the following articles; they were painted on the walls of the tombs of the kings, but particularly on those of the four small chambers, each of which was ornamented with a different class of objects, the first appertaining to music, the second to arms, the third to housekeeping, and the fourth to agriculture:

A dagger of a similar form with the belt-dagger still in general use throughout the east. A mace, with an hilt to guard the hand. A battle-ax, below and at the back of the blade of which is a weight of metal, to render the blow the more heavy, and the aim the more certain. A chest of drawers, with a cover, and handles to pull out the one and lift up the other. An elbow-chair, in so elegant a form that there no where perhaps exists a model in better taste: it is lined in the most commodious manner. The painting represents the stuff as flowered; and, of course, it was either brocaded, painted, or embroidered: the wood is of the colour of mahogany, and it is carved and gilt. A bed, of which the form has
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been received in Europe, since architects have presided over our furniture as well as over the interior embellishments of our chambers. A folding-stool, precisely like that at present called a camp-stool. A kind of clothes-press. A plough resembling that still in use in Egypt ; behind the man who holds the plough is another who sows, throwing the seed over his head. An harp of twenty-one strings ; the costume of the figure that plays (part of which consists in very wide moorish trowsers), is very odd and disagreeable ; but the attitude is full of enthusiasm and nature.

In a tomb on the mountains which are west of Thebes, M. Denon found a painting of a groupe of musicians, whose complexions are red : the first, is clothed in a close tunic, with wide sleeves ; the tunics of the others are only distinguishable by their colour, which is white ; but which becomes pink by discovering that of the flesh beneath it. The first touches a kind of thiorba, or large lute ; the second, by the position of the body, the head, and the arms, seems to blow a wind instrument, and it is to be regretted that a defect in the plastering has deprived us of the model of a third egyptian instrument of music. M. Denon examined every scrap at the foot of the wall, but could discover no fragment. The attitude of the third figure is easy and natural.—The elegant and similar manner in which each of these is placed, exhibits a great delicacy and purity of taste in the designer, and the versatility of style

style adopted by the Egyptians, when not confined to the hieroglyphics.

In those tombs are different figures of bearers of water, bread, and other food; and these are so frequently repeated in these sort of fabrics that there is reason to believe victuals to have been carried in the funeral processions, together with vases, armorial trophies, and images of the gods; and that these functions were performed with a profusion and pomp commensurate to the dignity of the deceased. Among the representations of the vases, M. Denon observed one of the colour of gold: this was, no doubt, a piece of goldsmithery, and was of the most superb description: aquatic plants are its chief ornaments; a flower of the lotus serves it for a cover: on its body is a running horse; and these, with the heads of the kids and horses, with which it is also ornamented, are all executed in a fine style. There was another golden vase of a disagreeable form and depraved style, resembling those used by ourselves, before our taste was improved by the etruscan vases, in this species of elegance; the stems of the lotus with which it is decorated, indicate that it was designed to contain Nile-water, and particularly that of the inundation; and a winged globe on its body, implies that its purpose was sacred. A third vase was of a silver colour, and correct form: its richness is distributed with a noble simplicity: the head of Jupiter-Ammon, which forms its lid, and a figure on its knees, most elegantly supplying at once a handle and a
foot,

foot, indicate that it was to contain some sacred liquor, and its spout also manifests that it was to be used in making libations. A groupe, composed of an headless man, kneeling, and fastened before a stake, and a bearded man, holding a sword, as before observed, frequently appears in the tombs of the kings; whence it may be seen, that the Egyptians offered human sacrifices. The stake is terminated by an head of a wolf, or shacal, and indicates the scene to represent a religious observance, and not an execution; and that the figure decapitated was that of a victim, and not of a criminal. Red appears to have been the national colour, and black the foreign; for the victim is always black, with the negro-character, and that which holds the cutlas is always red:—Among all nations there have been bloody-thirsty divinities, because the men who have made them, have made them after their own feelings.

The elegance, delicacy, and perfection of the foot that has been mentioned, leave no doubt that it was that of a female, in the prime of youth. The direction of the toes, and the beautiful curve of the instep, demonstrate that it belonged to a person of rank, whose foot had never been fatigued with long walks, nor compressed by any covering: it is still visible that the nails were coloured with hene; as to this day, not only these, but the sole of the foot, and the palm of the hand, are coloured by the egyptian women. I was torn from the tombs, where I staid three hours, and where I could have found abundance to interest
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me for as many days ! The mystery and grandeur of these excavations, the number of doors by which they were defended, all manifest that the religious system which sunk and decorated these caverns, was the same with that which had raised the pyramids.

At length, we hastily left these retreats, in which there were so many interesting objects to detain us, in order to arrive in time at Ali-catteh. I felt, as before, that to cross Thebes, affected as the paroxysm of a fever, as a sort of crisis, which left me with an equal impression of impatience, enthusiasm, irritation, and lassitude.

The next day, at an early hour, we arrived at Nagadi, a rich village, inhabited by christians : the coptic bishop, with the cross in his hand, and at the head of all his flock, led our march, and conducted us to a house at which was prepared a breakfast for the whole detachment, a civility prompted by gratitude for our having delivered the vicinity from the plundering Mekkans, and more especially for having freed the bishop from the captivity we found him in, at the castle of Benhut.

Nagadi is one of the largest and most opulent of the villages situated in the desert, which results from its lying in the route of the caravans, at an opening of one of the roads from Koffeir to the Nile, and from Mekka into Egypt. It contains a great number of wealthy inhabitants, who are engaged in commerce, and in furnishing camels to the caravans which continually pass through it ;

there are seasons in which from a thousand to twelve hundred of these animals are kept in this village for hire; and yet this active commerce makes no alteration in its silent appearance: a few wells and cisterns decide the choice of a site for those kind of villages; the water which moistens the earth with which they are built, is one of the most precious materials of its fabric; a few women were sometimes seen seated at the angle of the walls, but although veiled, they disappeared like hares, when one of the French unexpectedly presented himself, and precipitated themselves into holes which served for doors to the dens in which they were concealed; one of the characteristic traits of these villages consists in a large number of moes, or warehouses for the reception of goods brought across the desert from the Red-sea: its little constructions resembling jars or tubs are a sort of tables, on which the people feed their camels: each house is an insulated enclosure, and the spaces intervening, are the streets, in which the passenger would lose himself, were it not that he can always see his way over the houses. The scale of the height of the houses will be conceived, by saying, that the head of the camel, lying in the yard, is always seen above their roofs: the landscape around these villages is composed of a cloudless sky, burning on an arid soil, without a vestige of life in any part of the horizon: one is stifled and incapable of seeing clearly within-doors, and broiled when without. We were extremely happy in finding
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this melancholy habitation among the tombs of Nagadi, which protected us from the heat of an almost insupportable sun.

We slept at Balafs, a place which gives name to the jars of earth, with which its manufactories supply all Egypt, Syria, and also the islands of the Archipelago: they have the quality of suffering the water to transude, and thus purify and cool it: they are fabricated at little expense, and are capable of being sold so cheaply that they are often used in forming the walls of houses; the poorest inhabitant can procure them in abundance, for nature has given the material, ready prepared, and close at hand; this is an heavy, fine, soapy, and compact marl, requiring only to be moistened and kneaded to become malleable and tenacious; and the vessels into which it is made, turned, dried, and half-baked in the sun, are finished in a few hours, by the action of a little fire of straw. These vessels are fastened together in rafts, of which every traveller into Egypt has spoken: in this manner they are carried along the banks of the Nile, a part being sold in the progress, and the rest arriving at Rashid and Damiat, to be exported to foreign countries. I have found the same jars, in the same shapes, applied to the same uses, and raised on the same tripods, in the hieroglyphical paintings, and in the illuminations on the manuscripts. The mountains whence the prime material for these vessels is taken, are formed of very soft argillaceous rock, which water decomposes, and with which it is kneaded at

the same time that it is moistened; its rich and sandy particles are very well adapted to the purposes for which it is wanted; it is easily turned; it is then dried in the shade, afterwards in the sun, and lastly, half-baked, by a short exposure to a fire of straw. These vessels are a much cheaper material for house and wall building than brick.

The spongy nature of this earth causes the filtration of the water it is made to contain, and gives it a motion that brings the muddy part to the inside coat of the vessel. This circumstance, together with that of the exterior part being always weeping with the transudation, causes the atmosphere to come so little in contact with the vase, that the water becomes almost as cool as by the use of ice, of which Egypt is utterly destitute, from the want of high mountains, and the mildness of its winters. At the neck of the bardaks, which are applied to the mouth, there are little gratings which prevent the arrival of the water in too great abundance. They are often performed by fumigations of aromatics, or with orange-flower water, to vary the insipid flavour of the water, which, in other respects, on coming out of these vessels, is the best that exists in the world. In my travels about the environs of Keneh, I have been often at Ballas: I have seen the manufacture, and the immense lading put upon the vessels, or formed into rafts composed of the pots themselves, like our rafts of
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of wood, that are floated to the places for which they are designed.

The shape of the bardaks and ballaffes is very elegant; having been always in general use, these have retained a chaste model. I have observed that every thing which is of the first necessity, in a country where the arts once existed, preserves its form, through constant imitation. The egyptian utensils in iron are of a different class; they consist of plates, dishes, stew pans, for boiling meat or soup, and the cover of which, being turned, becomes an hollow dish: I have seen a similar contrivance among the bowls called etruscan: the next is a boiler, which is used on all occasions requiring hot water, as rice, meat, coffee, &c. and a cup for drinking every thing that is not pure water.

Among the articles of luxury there is a sort of waiter for presenting a dish of coffee with ceremony to a personage to whom it is desired to show particular respect: this waiter is of silver or gold, and is sometimes adorned with gems: no saucer is used in the east, but, that the cup may not burn the hand, this, which is of porcelain, is put into a second cup of silver or gold, elaborately pierced. There is also an asperfor, with which rose water is thrown on visitants whom it is wished to treat with respect, after a repast, or at the end of a visit, when it is intended to take leave. A third article is a ewer and its bowl, for washing the hands and face before and after dining, and in general when any thing is touched: the bowl has a double
bottom,

bottom, pierced with holes, through which the water passes, thus taking away from the second person what was used by the first, and concealing it. A fourth, is a profumator, and its plate; it opens in the middle, and is used to burn aloes-wood, benjamin, or compound pastils, upon charcoal: great profumators, of two or three feet in height, are constantly in the centre of the room; smaller ones are carried about, and each throws the fume upon his beard or his clothes. This superfluity, of which we were hitherto uninformed, is adapted to people who seek enjoyments free from motion, who do not love to speak, and who find in these customs an additional civility to offer to those whom they would treat and distinguish: it is slaves that move; a gesture of the hand is sufficient for doing honours, so that in a visit of interest or respect, sweetmeats, sherbet, coffee, the permanent pipe, rose-water, and perfumes, nearly fill up the time; especially with the addition of a few adages, as *YOU LOOK WELL*, — *GOD IS GREAT*, *MOST GREAT*, and some others, that do not require more words: they part without any strong wish to meet again; each finds at home the ineffable happiness of being at his ease, of having nothing to do, of enjoying repose. This effeminacy, so mild in appearance, is in reality the source of all the vices with which the oriental character is disfigured; it is to arrive at this beloved end, that it is rapacious, selfish, cruel and tyrannical. Seated in the shade, enjoying his pipe, his coffee, his cat, his birds, and his children,

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the oriental is surrounded with all he wishes for ; he is teased but never tired by his children, whom he loves to idolatry : happy were it, if amidst enjoyments thus gentle, he became good and virtuous, and if he were without haughtiness and indolence, which spoil all his good qualities, and inspire him with vices. We arrived opposite Kench the next day, and found the Nile six feet higher than we had left it. Here we learned that Murat-bey had left the oases, and descended from Siut into the environs of Mineh, after opening a communication with lower Egypt, and as far as the north of Africa, and also that he had sent an emissary from Derma. This emissary was said to be the angel Mohdi, announced and promised in the koran : He was acknowledged by a pilgrim at the head of two hundred Muggrebins, by whom the standard of the prophet was displayed, and the miracles of Mohdi announced ; neither the muskets nor even the cannon of the French were to be able to injure those under this sacred banner. On arriving in the province of Bahireh, he made himself master of Denmenhur, which was garrisoned by sixty french soldiers. On this success, the partizans of the new leader increased, the beduins flocked to him from all parts, insomuch that the throng became innumerable ; like the whirlwinds of the desert, it raised pillars of sand and dust in its progress, and seemed to threaten both the heavens and the earth : but, at the first blow, it bent, shook, and vanished ; a detachment was sent, Denmenhur was retaken, fifteen hundred revoltors killed, and
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the rest dispersed: the angel Mohdi, himself, was wounded, and escaped with difficulty; the illusion ceased; and the phantom and the army was heard of no more.

Intelligence from Syria announced the return of our army: I supposed, that upper Egypt, being conquered and occupied, the period was approaching when lower Egypt, covered with water, would be secured for a long time from descents, and that Bonaparte would find the operations of higher importance finished. I remembered, that in bringing me, he had promised to take me back with him; I had not hitherto turned my eyes towards Europe, and this thought produced an emotion of disquiet and impatience.

Meanwhile, the reports of the muskets which were fired upon us by the inhabitants of Kurnu, still reverberated in the memory of general Beliard, and the time for retaliation was arrived. Scarcely had he returned to Keneh before he meditated an expedition to surprize them, possess itself of their flocks, penetrate and blow up their caverns, and bring off the shech. This expedition would require some stay at Thebes; at Thebes! I was the prey of contradictory propensities; but my determination turned in favour of that which my passion called my duty. I set forward, it was my seventh journey to this great Diospolis, which I had always seen with so much haste, that something of pain attached itself to my enjoyments: I hoped, this time, at least to increase my collection in regard to this capital of the antique

tique world, this source of light, through so many ages, for all nations that have been willing to enjoy its rays.

Having arrived on its banks, we made signals, and affected to pass beyond it, as if our destination had been for Esneh: the feint succeeded; we anchored at Luxor; and, the next day, before dawn, we returned to Kurnu: but the manœuvre terminated in a blunder; the commanding officer presumed we should find the people in a little wood of palm-trees, to the south of the caverns, and he caused this to be surrounded, and the drums to be beat: nobody, however, was found but an unfortunate passenger, who had rested there during the night: awakened by the soldiers, he attempted to fly, but they ran after him, and stopped him only by a blow of the sabre, which cut off his hand: the unfortunate man complained but of fate, and went his way: I gave him two piasters; O summit of misery! he considered himself my debtor!

The dogs misled us, and day-break released us from our error, and exhibited to us the inhabitants flying into the desert, preceded by their shech on horseback, and followed by their flocks; a part of the latter were intercepted and a few of the women were taken. We began to lay siege to each tomb. We collected all kinds of combustible materials; we kindled fires before the caverns, in order that the smoke might compel those to come out who were within; they repulsed us with stones and darts, and for the most part

these retreats, which communicated with each other, had double issues. A surprize would have terminated our operations successfully; but, begun as it was unskilfully, it became cruel, and ended only in the capture of three hundred head of cattle, four men, as many women, and eight children. Those who fled into the desert, were without provisions, and could obtain none from the neighbouring villages, with which they were at war; and those who were in the caverns were without water. We took our positions for forming a double blockade, and we sprung our mine, which had but little effect, except that of exciting alarm: parleys commenced; this was a war with gnomes, and our propositions of reconciliation and our articles were communicated through masses of rocks; we first demanded their shechs; those they would not give up; they inquired after such as we had made prisoners, their wives, their children, and their flocks, for whom their solicitude was equal: they were permitted to send a deputy into the desert, and hostilities were suspended during his absence.

Accompanied by some volunteer soldiers, I commenced my researches. I examined the caverns that we had taken by assault, which were without magnificence; behind a regular double gallery, supported by pillars, was a row of chambers, some of which were double. If sepultures were not found, and even parts of mummies, it might be believed that the first abode of the earliest inhabitants of Egypt, was here; or rather
that;

that, after having primarily served for this purpose, these caverns were converted into tombs, and again, that the inhabitants of Kurnu (new Troglodytes) restored them to their original destination.

As the caverns rise above the coast, they increase in ornament; and, after advancing a little, I was certain from the magnificence of the paintings and sculptures, and from the subjects they represented, that I was among the tombs of heroes or of the great. The tombs supposed to have been those of the kings, and which I had sought for in my last journey, at three quarters of a league in the desert, had no advantage over these but in the magnificence of their sarcophagi, nor peculiarity, but in the mysterious insulation of their seat; these others immediately overlooked the great buildings of the city: the sculptures were vastly more elaborate than any I had seen in the temples; they were chasings; I was surprised that the perfection of the art should have been reserved for the tombs, and condemned to silence and obscurity. These galleries, have, in some instances, been cut through beds of a calcareous potter's clay, of a very fine grain, and, in these cases, the details of the hieroglyphics have been executed with a determination and firmness of touch, which even marble has seldom had to boast, and the figures delineated with an ease and chastity, of which I had not thought Egyptian sculpture susceptible. I had an opportunity of judging it here in subjects that were neither hieroglyphical, historical, nor scientific, but in re-

presentations of scenes, taken from nature, where the place of cold profile attitudes was supplied by easy and natural motion, by groupes of figures in perspective, of a relief so low, that, till now, I imagined metal alone capable of bearing workmanship thus flattened. I brought away some fragments of these low-reliefs, to prove to others the existence of that which had so much surprized myself. I thought it extraordinary what little analogy subsisted between the greater part of the subjects of these sepultures, and the place they decorated. It required the presence of mummies to evince that it was a place of tombs : I found low-reliefs representing games, as rope-dancing, gambolings, with asses, lifted on their hinder feet, &c. these asses are sculptured with as much nature, as that with which Le Bassan has painted them.

The plan of these excavations is not less extraordinary. Some of them are so large, that they might be taken for labyrinths to subterranean abodes. Some of the people with whom we warred, served me for guides ; and the sound of money, that universal fascinator, that great appeaser of all hatred, especially with the Arabs, obtained me friends among the fugitive inhabitants of Kurnu, some of whom came to me secretly, when I had withdrawn from the camp, and most faithfully served me. In their company, I penetrated these subterraneous mazes, which give an idea, by their mysterious distribution, of temples constructed for the trial of candidates for initiation.

After

After the highly ornamented chambers which I have mentioned, we entered long and dark galleries, which, by several angles, proceeded and doubled upon themselves, and extended to a great distance; these were gloomy, austere, and without ornament. Sometimes we met with chambers, covered with hieroglyphics, narrow paths on the brink of precipices, and deep wells, which can be descended but by putting the feet into holes, pierced in the rock; at the bottom of these are found ornamented chambers, and, again, more wells and other chambers, and, by a tedious ascending slope, at length, an open place, contiguous to that from which the pursuit commenced. Many days would be necessary to take the plans of mazes like these: if the splendour of the interior of the houses bore any resemblance to the pomp of these ulterior habitations; as, from the elegant furniture painted in the tombs of the kings, is to be believed, how much have we to lament that not a vestige remains!—Where are the houses which contained such magnificence? How have they disappeared? They cannot be buried in the mud of the Nile, for the quay which is before Luxor, demonstrates that the banks have experienced no considerable elevation. Were they of unburnt brick? Did the great, like the priests, inhabit the temples? And had the people nothing but tents to reside in?

During the entire expedition, we were followed by flocks of kites and little vultures, who became familiar with us although they are naturally voracious;

cious ; they fed on what we left behind us, and rejoined us at our next station ; on days of battle, instead of being frightened by the thunder of the cannon, they gathered about us from all parts. At this time our aquatic expedition had deceived them ; but, on the first discharge of musketry, and particularly on the explosion of the mine, they discovered our situation, and lost no time in re-joining ; their address and familiarity became a source of diversion ; from the lofty banks of the Nile, we threw them meat which they dexterously caught before it fell in the water ; they sometimes flew away with the provisions that were sent to the advanced posts, and which our servants were carrying on their heads. I have seen kites, when the soldiers were drawing poultry, gently take out of their hands the liver and entrails which they were employed in separating. The little vultures had not the same dexterity, but their boldness was equal to their voracity ; they ate the vilest and most putrid things, and they themselves partook of the impurity of their food. In several attempts, I was unable to bear the odour of their flesh which I tried to roast the moment after I had killed them, with a pistol-shot, and while they were yet warm.

My guides and I separated in the evening, mutually satisfied with each other, after appointing a rendezvous for the morning, to which we were equally disposed to be exact. I visited other sepulchres, less obscure than those I had seen on the evening before, and which, on account of their
light-

lightsome and airy situation, and the fine prospect they afforded, were capable of serving for pleasant habitations: for the rest, they are in no respect different from the others. The rock, which is of a gravelly substance, is covered with smooth stucco, on which are planted, in all colours, scenes of funereal pomp, in a style inferior to that of the sculptures, but which are not less interesting on account of the subjects they represent: it is to be regretted that flaws in the plaster prevent our recognising the methodical progress of the ceremonies; but it is visible in the fragments that remain that they were attended with great pomp and magnificence.

The figures of divinities are borne by priests, on litters, and under banners, followed by persons carrying vases of gold, of all forms, calumets, arms, provisions of bread, flesh, and coffers of various shapes. I could not, in any one of the groupes, distinguish the corpse of the dead; perhaps it was enclosed in some sarcophagus, and surmounted by figures of divinities. In the procession, there were women walking in order, and playing on instruments; it was here that I found the groupe of three figures, of which one played on an harp, another on a sort of guitar, and a third evidently on some wind instrument, of the knowledge of which we have been deprived by time.

If I had leisure to make drawings of all the meanders which decorate the cielings, I should have brought away all those which decorate the
grecian

grecian architecture, and all those rich and elegant ornaments which are called arabesk.

Among those excavations there is an edifice of unburnt brick, of which the lines have much character of beauty. The talus and crownings of the walls call to recollection the egyptian architecture; but some ornaments of the exterior, as well as the vaults of the basement, proved evidently to me, that the fabrication was arabian; it is of considerable size, and by its elevation overlooks the territory of Thebes.

Various fragments of mummies were brought to me: I promised a liberal douceur for one complete and untouched; but the avarice of the Arabs had deprived me of this desideratum. They sell at Kaira the resin which they find in the entrails and skulls of the mummies, and nothing can prevent them from this species of plunder. To this we may add the fear they entertain of giving up a mummy that contains some treasure, though never found in these situations, and which always occasions them to break the coverings of wood, and tear the painted cloth which, in the more elaborate embalmments, covers the body. What a day of delight this was for me, in which I discovered so many novelties, and at the same time resumed my old profession of diplomatics! I was an intermediary for good offices, and the person to whom the care of the women and children was confided. I stipulated that the shechs should be delivered to me; I spoke of the appetite of our soldiers, and the consequent dangers

to their flocks that would result from long resistance; but, I confess, I did not wish to hurry, I temporized, I deferred to the morrow, desirous neither to be over abrupt nor inefficient in my negotiations.

In ascending the mountains, I observed that the tombs of the kings were near the memnonium: I was much tempted to return thither; my guides pressed me to do so, but I was apprehensive of meeting the fugitive people, and of becoming, in my turn, an hostage, or an article of exchange, for the flocks.

The third day, I went to Medinet-Abu, and beheld with new eyes its wondrous edifices. Being no longer pressed by the hasty marches of an army, I took the plan of its groupe of buildings; I convinced myself thoroughly that its great courts, which are in a direct line with it, as well as the immense circumvallation of two hundred feet long, of which only one side is any longer visible, might very probably be dependences on the two-storied palace which I have described; I had already remarked in the second portico, that christianity had transformed it into a church of which nothing remains but the basement of the niche of the choir and the columns of the nave; but I now discovered, from a number of little doors decorated with crosses-fleury, that the dwelling-part, of two hundred feet, had, according to all appearance, served for a convent to an order of monks of the first ages. In the portico which had been the church, I had leisure to ob-

serve that the sculptures on the inner wall represented the achievements of an hero, who carried war into distant countries; of Sesostris, perhaps, and his exploits in India, as all the bass-reliefs indicate. A conqueror is seen pursuing alone, an army which flies before him, and plunges to avoid his sword, into a river, which is, perhaps, the Indus. Mounted in a small chariot, which has room but for himself, he guides two horses, whose reins are fastened to his girdle: quivers and maces are fixed to his car, and all around him; his stature is gigantic; he holds an immense bow, and shoots arrows on his enemies, who have beards and long hair, and resemble in no respect the egyptian heads. Farther on, he is represented as seated on the back of his car, the horses of which are held by his pages; the hands of the vanquished dead are counted before him; another person writes them down; a third seems to proclaim the number. Some travellers have seen in a second heap, another species of mutilation, which evinced that the hero had not fought with amazons. The forms of these mutilations, however, did not strike me; I could not distinguish them: the prisoners are led in fetters of various kinds; they are in long and striped robes; their hair is long and platted; pannels of fifty feet diameter follow, and, no doubt, explain these pictures.

To the left, on another face of these galleries, is a long low-relief, representing, on two lines, a triumphant march: this is, I suppose, the same hero, returning from his conquests; some soldiers, bearing

bearing their arms, evince that the triumph is military, for, soon after, we see nothing but priests, or initiated persons, without arms, but with long habits and transparent tunics; the arms of the hero are covered: he is carried on men's shoulders, in a palankeen, with all the attributes of divinity; before and behind him priests are carrying palms and calumets; he is presented with incense, and he arrives thus at the temple of the great divinity at Thebes, which I have already described; he offers a sacrifice, and is himself the sacrificator: the procession recommences, and the hero becomes its convoy; this is followed by the god, borne by four-and-twenty priests; the bull Apis, with the attributes of divinity, precedes the hero; a long train of persons, each bears an ensign, on the greater part of which are the images of gods. Arrived at an altar, a child, with its arms behind its back, is about to be sacrificed before the triumpher, who stops to assist at this horrible immolation, or receive this execrable holocaust; a priest who breaks the stalk of a flower, birds which fly away, denote death, and the soul, departed from the body: that, then, which Longus and Apuleius, in their romances of Theagenes and of the Golden Ass, have told us of human sacrifices amongst the Egyptians is a truth; and, in all countries, polished men resemble barbarians. After this, the hero himself makes an offering, to the god Apis, of an ear of wheat; a protecting genius accompanies him continually; he alters his habit and head-dress during

the progress of the ceremony, by which the different dignities or gradations of initiation, may be observed, the same countenance, is, however, always preserved; from which it appears to be a portrait; the air is majestic and dignified. In a picture, he holds nine figures manacled: are these the passions personified? are they nations whom he has conquered? incense is presented to him in honour of one or other of these victories; a priest transcribes his transactions, and consecrates their remembrance. This was the first time that I had met with figures in the act of writing: the Egyptians, it appears then, had books; the celebrated *Тот*, then, was a book, and not pannels of inscriptions, sculptured upon walls, as it has heretofore been supposed. I flattered myself with the idea that I was the first who had made this important discovery; but my pleasure was redoubled, when, in a short time after, I was furnished with the proof of my discovery, by the possession of a manuscript itself, which I discovered in the hand of a mummy which was brought to me: he must be extremely inquisitive, an amateur, and a traveller, who can appreciate the whole extent of such an enjoyment. I was inclined to reprimand those, who, in spite of my request, had violated this mummy; when I observed, in its right hand, and under its left arm, the manuscript roll of papyrus, which, but for this violation, I should never have beheld: my voice failed me; I blessed the avarice of the Arabs, and the accident that had caused this good fortune;

fortune; such was my apprehension of destroying it, that I doubted what to do with my prize; I feared to touch this book, the most antient book at this day known; I dared intrust it to no one, deposit it no where; all the cotton of the quilt that served me for a bed, seemed not sufficient to embalm it with sufficient softness: was this the history of the person who bore it? of the æra of his life? of the reign of the monarch under whom he had lived? was it dogmas, or prayers, or the consecration of some discovery? Without considering that the characters of my book were as unintelligible as the language in which it was written, I imagined, momentarily, that I possessed the compendium of egyptian literature, in a word, the truth itself. I had lamented not being able to take draughts of all that I had beheld on this interesting day: but, for the rest, I had every reason to be satisfied; what other traveller had viewed so many novel objects? what other had been able, as I was, to delineate them on the spot?

The negociation proceeded more rapidly than I wished; the shechs were delivered up, but happily, the miri did not arrive. The commanding officer was so kind as to consult me: I was not equally candid; something of selfishness dictated my reply; except that an hundred men were at Thebes, who had nothing to do at Kench, the inconvenience was not material; I was about to quit upper Egypt for ever: military operations had often imperatively contradicted mine; I yielded to the opportunity of avenging myself a little.

I there-

I therefore observed to him, that too much circumspection could not be used in a circumstance thus delicate, and that I thought nothing should be left to chance. A courier, whose journey left me at ease for four days, was accordingly dispatched; in the mean time, more pressing orders arrived; it was proposed to send in search of the inhabitants of Kurnu, wherever they might be hid. I went with the detachment which was sent to scour, in the hope of some new discoveries in a country fertile in this way. On our road we learned that the fugitives were at Harment. There was a league and a half to reach it, and as much to return, with an ardent sun, and I on foot:—three soldiers were without shoes; I proposed taking them with me, and going to Medinet-Abu, opposite to which we then were: fortunately, the officer did not consider the weakness of such an escort; and, all four, well satisfied, went to pass the day in the cool, under the porticoes of Medinet-Abu. The inhabitants, who knew me by a few gifts, came out to meet us, not to quarrel, but to bring water, bread, dates, and raisins; and I had now time to draw, what the evening before I could only take a transient view of. The low-relief of the procession, represents the triumph of Sesostris, Osimandue, Memnon, or some other hero who has reigned at Thebes.—The procession commences with two priests, who appear to make proclamation of its approach.—They are followed by two others, bearing tablets surmounted by the flower of the lotus; these are followed

followed again by eight, with bunches of feathers on their heads, and long palm-branches in their hands ; these again by three soldiers, armed with lances and shields. Next follow four persons, carrying steps, intended, no doubt, for ascending and descending the triumphal car.--- Eight other priests succeed ; the six foremost have plumes on their heads, and are dressed in transparent tunics, while the two latter have bunches of feathers, and long garments ; then two children, having batons, with the flowers of the lotus. Twelve persons carry, by means of poles laid on their shoulders, the triumpher himself, seated on his car, surmounted by a canopy, and accompanied by figures of the lion, the sphinx, the sparrow-hawk, and the serpent, emblems of the strength, mystery, rapidity, and courage, which characterize the hero ; the calumet and the palms are those of peace and victory. Children, of a smaller size than the former, march beside the throne, bearing the arms of the hero, who is seen decorated with the attributes of the great divinity of Thebes ; he has a collar, and above his vestment is a transparent tunic, like that of the priests, or initiated persons ; there appear to be inscriptions about his head, which probably contain the names of his victories. Above and below, a priest presents him incense.

Two other priests, in magnificent costume, read and proclaim his victories, and eight others bear large plumes ; covered with tunics, they walk before the hero ; he arrives at the temple of
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the great divinity, under a portico formed by two stems of the lotus, and terminated by their flowers, on which is placed a cornice, composed of serpents. The hero, in a warlike habiliment, surmounted by a sacerdotal tunic, with one hand presents incense to the divinity, and with the other makes a libation on the preparations for a sacrifice, composed of vases of water, hearts and legs of victims, and flowers of the lotus : after this, the procession recommences : two persons carry a moveable altar, on which are five reversed vases, a figure I frequently observed by the side of the great divinity. Two other persons carry a large tablet, on which were written the victories of the conquering hero ; the great divinity next appears, carried by twenty-four bare-headed persons, and surrounded by all the pomp of ceremonies, plumes, calumets, trophies, and flowers ; the triumpher marches before, bearing a bonnet different from that he had on him prior to this, and accompanied by his tutelar genius ; he is preceded by the bull Apis, decorated with garlands, and bearing the disk of Isis between his horns :— a child presents him incense ; before these are twenty-one figures, each bearing a divinity, or an attribute of a divinity, such as birds or other animals, held sacred ; arrived at an altar, a priest seems to be on the moment of sacrificing before the triumpher a young human victim ; another lets a bird fly, which seems to be an emblem of the soul, parting from the body of the victim. These circumstances demonstrate the usage, which the
Greeks

Greeks have told us was egyptian, of sacrificing after a victory the youngest of the captives of either sex: an inscription is at hand, which perhaps contains the consecration; the breaking of the stalk of the lotus by a second priest, may also be an emblem of the premature death of the victim.

A sacrifice less barbarous follows next, made by the hero himself, and consisting of a bunch of wheat-stalks offered to the god Apis, and carried on the shoulders of priests.

The same hero, on a smaller scale, holds a chain, which is supported by nine figures, probably the emblems of vanquished nations; his protecting genius holds the sign of victory.

Could I speak with confidence upon subjects thus important, and which are lost in the night of time, it is not with any view to impress on the reader the justice of my opinion, but only to make him pause for a moment, by a few ideas, to rouse his curiosity and even his contradiction.—The traveller observes, because he is occupied only by that of which he has come in search, that which remunerates him for his labour; the draughtsman, obliged to follow the objects slowly, must consider the details; the examiner, who obtains them reduced to his hand, hurries hastily over them, if he be not detained by minute observations, perhaps, that offend him, and which often compel him to revolve others, which may lead to discoveries.

The head of the hero is certainly a portrait, because it is alike in all the repetitions: if it were that of Sesostris, it were interesting to observe that he had nothing about him of the african character, but, on the contrary, all the nobleness and elegance of the grecian.

After this long train of uninterrupted bass-reliefs, and which, because of their being uninterrupted, may be presumed to belong to the same subject, follow large pages of inscriptions, which, no doubt, explain this ceremony, or relate the history of the hero, whose exploits are thus commemorated. After these inscriptions, appear broken pictures, which represent deeds of arms and combats; and, among all these disjointed pieces, I still recognized the same hero, pursuing enemies who take to the flood.

In another picture which follows, the same hero, after the battle, is seated at the back of his triumphal car, the horses of which are held by pages or archers; he causes the dead to be counted, by the number of their hands, which have been cut off; the person who counts them, still holds the cutlass under his arm; at his back are prisoners, with long hair, which sometimes has been used to bind their arms; their head-dress, their beard, and their costume, are all foreign to Egypt; a long series of these latter are lost among the dilapidations occasioned by the various uses to which, at different periods, these temples have been appropriated. I had tapers with me, and consequently was enabled to visit the most obscure

secure places, into which, in my former journies, I could not enter. I found three little chambers, lined with low-reliefs, and which were always deprived of light; at the bottom of the third there has been a species of cupboard, the shelves of which still are visible; this was the only thing remarkable in this little chamber; it was highly finished, and enclosed with three doors as strong as the walls, and characteristic of a treasury. We visited the obscure interior of a small neighbouring temple, where a trifling adventure occurred: by the side of the sanctuary was a little chamber, nearly the entire space of which was occupied by a monolite temple of granite; this was thrown down; we were about to visit the interior, when there suddenly rushed out a beast rather large, which sprang upon the face of him who held the light, and scratched him: I had time only to cover my face with my hands, and to bend my shoulders, on which I received the first leap of the animal, who, at the second, in passing between my legs, threw me to the ground, and immediately knocked down my two other companions, who had fled towards the door. We all came out, and laughed at our fright, of the cause of which we had not been able to render ourselves certain: we supposed it was a shacal, who had chosen this retreat, and who had been disturbed for the first time.

I made a general revival, and entered a pit dug under the foundations of the chamber which I considered as the most ancient part of the edifice,

and where, notwithstanding in the foundation of one of the principal supports of the fabric, I observed materials on which were sculptured hieroglyphics as well executed as those which decorate the exterior part. According to this, what degree of antiquity may we suppose to belong to the edifices which they have decorated! what ages of civilization for the production of such edifices! how many ages before they had tumbled into ruins! how many other ages again, since their ruins served for foundations! how mysterious, how dark and infinite are the annals of this part of the world!

To the north of these temples, we discovered the ruins of two figures of granite: they were thrown down and broken; they were about thirty feet in height, in the usual attitude, the right foot advanced, and the arms close to the body; they certainly served as ornaments to the door of some great edifice, now destroyed, and its ruins buried.

I now proceeded to the two statues called of Memnon: they are destitute of charm, grace, or action; they have nothing that delight; but they are correct in their proportions, and the simplicity of their attitude, and the nullity of their expression, have something serious and grand which interests the imagination: if, to express any sentiment, the members of these figures had been contracted, the grandeur of their lines would have been lessened, and they would have displayed, at the four leagues at which they are discovered,

vered, and at which they produce a grand effect, less distinctness of form. To conceive the character of these statues, it were necessary to have seen them in many points of view, and to have considered them for a long time; on doing this, it sometimes happens that what had first appeared as a raw effort in the art, terminates with being one of its perfections. The groupe of the Laocœon, which speaks so strongly to the mind, executed with a proportion of sixty-feet, and placed in a vast area, would lose all its beauties, and fail to produce a mass equally happy with this; in a word, these statues, if more agreeable, would be less fine; they would cease to be what they are, that is, eminently monumental, a peculiarity which belongs to exterior sculpture, to that which harmonizes with architecture, to that sculpture which the Egyptians carried to the highest acme of perfection. I refer for the support of this system to the happy result of the employment of the severer style whenever it has been resorted to by the moderns, and the strong partiality which all the artists of the expedition have felt for the austere expression, and which is the most evident proof of the reality of its beauty.

I re-examined the block of granite which is between these two statues, and was convinced that it is the ruin of that colossus of Ossimandue, the inscription of which challenged time and human pride; that the two figures still remaining are those of his wife and daughter; and that, in posterior days, travellers have chosen one for a statue

tue of Memnon, in order that they might not be supposed to have come into Egypt without seeing that statue, and, according to the ordinary progression of enthusiasm, without having heard its sounds at the rising of the sun.

I was joined by some of my friends from Kurnu. I calculated that the troop gone to Hermonthis could not but return late; and I visited once more the tombs, always hoping to find one that had not been opened, to the end that I might see a virgin mummy, and the manner in which it was laid in the sepulchre, a particular which the people concealed from us with great care, because their sale is, to this village, a profitable branch of commerce, and almost peculiarly its own.—After much painful and fruitless researches, we came to a hole where we saw many fragments of mummies: the opening was narrow; we looked at each other to know whether we dared to descend: my companions were curious; we agreed that one of the volunteers, with my servant, should stay without, as sentinels over the guides, taking the precaution that these should neither go away nor enter; we proceeded, at first, on our hands and knees; in a moment, one of our party exclaimed that he was stifled; we sent him to the door, to replace the sentinel, desiring that he should enter with his torch; after we had crawled upwards of an hundred paces, on heaps of dead and half-consumed bodies, the vaults elevated, and the place became spacious, and decorated in an elaborate manner: we soon perceived that
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the tomb had been opened by people, who, not having torches, had used faggots, which set fire, first to the linen, and afterwards to the resin of the mummies, and occasioned a conflagration which had cracked the stones, melted the resinous matter, and blackened all the vault: we observed clearly that this had been made for the sepulture of two considerable men, whose figures, of seven feet in length, held each other by the hand; over their heads was a low-relief, in which two dogs, in a leash, were couched upon an altar, before which, two figures, on their knees, seem, from their attitude, to adore them; a design which renders it probable that this sepulchre was that of two dear friends who had resolved not to be separated even by death: the lateral chambers, unornamented, were filled with bodies, the embalmment of which had been performed with more or less care; an evidence by which I was satisfied, that if the tombs were made for the heads of families, not only their own bodies, but those of their children, their relations, their friends, and servants, were placed there. Bodies, enwrapped, but without case, were placed upon the ground, and lay in regular order. I now discovered, for the first time, the reason that little figures of varnished earth, holding a flail in one hand, and in the other a crooked staff, are so frequently to be met with; religious enthusiasm having deposited the mummies on beds formed of these little divinities; I filled my pockets with them. A number of bodies, not enwrapped, enabled

abled me to discover that circumcision was known and in general use; that epilation was not practised among the women, as is the case at present; that their hair was long and soft, and that the character of the heads of the larger part was of a fine cast; I brought with me the head of an old woman, which was every way equal to the sibyls of Michael-Angelo, and which resembled them very much. With great labour and difficulty, we descended very deep wells, where we discovered more mummies, and large long pots of baked earth, the lids of which represented human heads; there was nothing within side but resinous matter: I could have wished to have drawn them out; but I was too much confined, the air failed, the light was almost extinguished, and, above all, it was now late; the patrols had been sent in search of us, the generale had been beat, and they had proceeded so far as to fire cannon; at length, they began to number us among those whose tombs we were visiting, when one of our sentinels came to acquaint us of the alarm. On returning, we were reprimanded, like children who had been upon a foolish errand; we had certainly been somewhat imprudent; but I was so well contented with the booty that I had made by the excursion, that I did not shake off my enchantment till I had the mortification to learn that the commanding officer, consulting me no longer, had actually taken upon him to leave the right bank, and go to Luxor, to wait for the arrival of further orders: he was in the end censured for
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this change of position, but not so much so as I wished he should have been, for having torn me from a country of which I had nothing to complain, and with the inhabitants of which I should have continued to live on friendly terms, had the war continued a month. Luxor was merely magnificent and picturesque. I passed three days in taking views, and in designing a plan, as well as I could, encumbered as the scite was with habitations, and the obscure retreats which jealous men had assigned to their wives. I copied the hieroglyphics of the obelisks, and some others of the god of abundance.

During my stay at Luxor, I discovered some medals of Augustus, of Adrian, and of Trajan, with a crocodile on the reverse, struck in Egypt, of a large size, in bronze, and with a greek inscription, as also a great number of medals of Constantine. I bought besides a multitude of little idols. In the court of a private house, I found a torse in granite, of proportions larger than natural; it represented the two signs of the lion and the virgin; this I bought and embarked.

While I was preparing to pass over to Karnac, the detachment was ordered to repair to other villages in which I had nothing to do; in a word, I now quitted great Diospolis for ever.

The ancient manuscript which I found in the hand of a mummy, when unrolled, is two feet nine inches in length. Its interior is not near so well preserved, as that of the others which I

afterwards procured, and which have not, like this, been compressed by the hand of the mummy, the embalming liquor of which had imbibed and oxygenated its particles. The vignette which illuminated it, represents a mummy on a bed of repose, formed like the body of a lion; above is a vulture, with extended wings, and in the front, a divinity holding a flail and anhook; between the two figures is an altar, on which are vases and flowers of the lotus.

I obtained a second manuscript, which was found in the envelope of a mummy; the papyrus on which it is written has been prepared in the same manner as that used by the Greeks and Romans, that is to say, of two layers of the pith of the plant, the filaments being laid in directions contrary to each other, in order to give greater consistence to the leaf. The writing runs from right to left, beginning at the top of the page, as is obvious from the aline of the sixth page, which ends in the middle of the line, and is followed by a postscript.

The first picture represents a sacrifice to four divinities, the first of whom is the god of abundance, holding a flail, and which is met with in all the temples of Thebes, and especially in the great temple of Karnac; to him this temple was dedicated: the second is a figure of Isis, having the horns of a cow on her head, a disk of the moon, and a serpent, which surrounds the whole; she holds in her hand the key of the canals of the Nile: the third is Osiris, with a staff, headed
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with the head of a lapwing, in one hand, and in the other a key; a fourth wears a temple on its head, and holds a key also in one hand.

On the right side, an high-priest, in a white tunic, with a fur robe, and buskins, is represented in the act of making an offering: before him is an altar in the form of a table, containing a bundle that appears to consist of flowers of the lotus; the rest of the picture is rather too indistinct to be described; under the table are two double-handled jars, the bases of which, end in a point, and are of a very elegant form: they are set upon a species of tripods, and it is remarkable that the form of these jars, and the manner of thus placing them, is still in use in Egypt; so much does the fashion of that which is of positive and continual necessity exist through time, without being exposed to alteration!

The entire of the picture is bordered by a portico, consisting of two columns of a striking form, resembling somewhat that of a baluster, bearing a timber which answers the place of architrave and cornice: this picture, the colours of which as well as the outline, resemble, at first sight, our playing cards, has but four tints of perfect colours, viz. a blue approximating the azure, a red brown, a yellow, of the GRAINE D'AVIGNON, and a dull green, and those are the only colours that I found in the most elaborate paintings in the tombs of the kings, and on the sculptured hieroglyphics. The outline of this picture, though somewhat neglected, was originally traced in a clear red colour,

lour, as a first sketch, some remains of which are still visible: the head of Osiris has a firmness which evinces that these indifferent copies had good models, although, following received customs, they were badly drawn at a time when the Egyptians were no longer rude.

The second picture represents an offering made by a priest to Isis, under the figure of a cow: her head is ornamented as in her human representations, and on her neck is a sort of yoke, which I also observed on the god Apis, in the low-relief of the temple of Medinet-Abu, at Thebes; before the figure of the cow is an object which I imagined to be an altar; the entire is placed on a portico, under which is a mummy, in a prone posture, which reminded me of a figure, at the temple of Tintyra, which I took for that of sleeping nature, and which no doubt served to express that period of the year in which she may be said to repose: above the cow is a disk, from which a serpent descends: the priest, like him in the first picture, is clothed with a white tunic, which covers him from the mid-reins to the mid-leg, and is fastened by straps that pass over his right shoulder, which, like his arms, is naked: on his head is a close cap, which I supposed to be elastic; it turns round his ears, and leaves them uncovered: he holds a vase in his hand, from which issue two sorts of flowers, such as I have frequently observed, but never been able to name: above the picture is an inscription on seven vertical and four horizontal columns: it is remarkable that the writing on these

these columns is different from that which composes the pages of this manuscript, and would seem to be a third species of writing. That used in the inscriptions on the obelisks might be compared to our capitals; that which is figured by objects, as those which are on the columns, with figures which are only diminutives of the others, to our round-hand; and the third is a sort of running hand, appropriated to manuscripts: in this latter, the characters appear to me to be infinitely numerous and varied; it also comprehends some of the others, as the serpent, the eyes, and the birds; but these characters are mixed with others that are conventional, and which present no image. In copying the manuscript, I have found the repetition of whole phrases, and certain characters so often repeated that they can only be articles, conjunctions, and auxiliary verbs: it will not be difficult for those who make a peculiar study of these kind of observations to compose alphabets, or groupes of words, and comparative tables, and, by the reconciliation of these different modes of writing, to assist a general explanation, which may one time or other cease to be hypothetical: a single manuscript would give the whole of these characters, if each character were only one letter. The figure of 3, is found incessantly, and can only be an article, or a mark of the plural number; there are others however which occur so seldom, that in the same way of reasoning, they can only be taken for appellative substantives, or expressions of entire words; and, in
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this case, the alphabet must be immense. But for my opinions, they are all dictated solely by my zeal and my anxiety to assist the researches of those who may have already formed systems on this subject, and be in possession of information. This manuscript is in the possession of the first consul, and he kindly communicated it for my work.

There is a third manuscript, which is much smaller, and rolled from left to right; it has the peculiarity of a title at its back, composed of nine distinct characters. The inside presents a picture of three rows of figures, intermixed here and there with columns of inscriptions; all these are vertical, with the exception of a single horizontal line: the letters do not run into one another as in the other manuscript; and, all the characters being insulated, and placed above each other without ever being united, they afford good grounds to conclude that, in these inscripitional characters, each figure is a word. The general picture appears to be that of a funeral or mortuary ceremony: in the third row there is a mummy conspicuously placed in a bark, crossing a river, probably the river Styx: in another part, the same mummy is received into the arms of Orus, or the earth; in the middle row is a bark carrying a Jupiter-Ammon, drawn by eight persons, alternately masculine and feminine. It is remarkable that the divinity in the bark is enveloped by a serpent, and that four divinities of a similar form, in the lower row, are seated on serpents, emitting

ting rays of light from their mouths, and descending to their feet: in the row above, as well as in that beneath, eight human figures, who seem to be priests, walk foremost, with their arms lifted, in the attitude of exclamation: the number eight appears to have been held sacred in this manuscript, for it is repeated in each of the three rows of figures. In the middle row, behind the divinity in a bark, there is an altar, on which a shacal, or wolf of Egypt is seated; on the pannel of the altar there are two vases of lustral water, between which is a figure representing a measure of the increase of the Nile, as I imagine, from the circumstance of having seen it more distinctly, in careful sculptures: it may be observed, however, that the negligence with which the whole of this is executed is to be attributed rather to the rapidity of the performance than to the unskilfulness of the designer; for there may be observed in its rude and careless sketches a precision and touch which are neither deficient in delicacy nor rectitude. This manuscript is not coloured like the others; it has nothing but red and black.

A fourth manuscript was communicated to me by citizen Amelin: this has no peculiarity except in the costume of the sacrificator, who seems to be a warrior: his head-dress is surmounted and crossed with a knife: his transparent robe, above which is a tyger's skin, indicates him a soldier: he holds a vase, from which there proceeds a flame. It may also be remarked of this manuscript, the
writing

writing of which is larger, and more carefully executed than that formerly described, that there is a facility of distinguishing between the characters of inscription, such as are above its picture, and its own running characters.

In selecting the curiosities of the repository of the academy of sciences, a manuscript has been found on a cloth or wrapper of a mummy; it contains nine pages, separated and bordered by nine vignettes: the title of the first is written in red; and the first word of each column is in the same colour. A ball of a red colour, which is in the first vignette, must represent the sun, as from its lower part issue what were intended to represent rays of light, and which are composed of globules, alternately red and black. Whether it may ever be possible to read them or not, it is important to know that the manuscripts exist; but the pictures with which they are adorned have a more immediate interest; as being of monolite temples, whence it is evident that these fabrics served to hold the sacred birds, as I had before conjectured when I found one in its place, on the island of Philoe.

Among the figures in these pictures is a sparrow-hawk with the head of a man, before which stands a figure in the attitude of admiration; there is also a sparrow-hawk on a cage; a sparrow-hawk on a die; a lapwing, a bird very common in Egypt, and of which there are many species; a demoiselle of Numidia; a serpent with the head of a man; a ceremony of consecrating a flower of
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the lotus ; a similar ceremony, before an head which springs from the plant lotus, a man bowing before three divinities, which visibly resemble each other ; a raven on a semi-circle, covered with dots, which may be stars, and the whole probably an emblem of night ; a bark on the water ; a little monolite temple, without which two sparrow-hawks are perched on its base, while a man sits by, apparently their guardian and holding a staff in one hand ; his seat, which is very elegant, is formed of the body of an animal, its legs, thighs, and tail ; a figure, which I have always considered to be that of the earth, placed and let into a die ; a cutting instrument appears to divide it into two parts ; a man with a wolf's head offering food to a divinity, in the form of a terminus ; a sacrifice, where, under the altar, are vases of lustral water ; a figure in the attitude of admiration, before a tabernacle, or monolite temple, the door of which is grated, and shut ; a monolite temple, the door of which is opened by a figure that seems to offer food to the bird which is enclosed : after these are four pictures, ranging below each other, and lying along the entire width of the manuscript ; of them, the first represents a bark, the second, a man making an offering of four vases, and various other things which I was unacquainted with and of course have not a name for, to a seated divinity ; the third, another offering to two figures, apparently divinities ; the fourth is half torn. Parallel to these, there are four other pictures, the terminations of which

have been unfortunately torn away, with a part of the cloth; the uppermost represents an offering of the thigh of an animal to three divinities, in a sitting posture, of whom the middlemost is red; a bark conducted by a man who is sitting and holding an oar with both his hands, in the identical attitude still adopted in Egypt: in the second is a field of ripe barley, which a man cuts with a sickle; another man is cultivating a plant which is not barley, but rice, or dura; in the third is a man ploughing; he holds the horns of the plough, and rests his foot on the share; the plough is drawn by an ox; there are very ill-drawn trees, between which are figures of the earth; the next picture is almost entirely destroyed.

There was another manuscript, discovered at Thebes, and brought forward at the very moment of the conclusion of my travels: it was given to general Andreoffy, to whose kindness I am indebted for the communication. It is the most considerable that I have seen, being twelve feet in length, and containing nineteen pages of writing, very interesting to publish as soon as it shall be possible to read this sort manuscript; the vignette is peculiarly attractive. This manuscript has some resemblance to that last described, which has also nineteen pages, a picture, and a vignette, or sort of frieze, that runs along the top of each page, but which is unfortunately too much injured to retain any interest; I have remarked, in the fragments that remain, crocodiles,
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a scorpion, and a crab: this manuscript is regularly divided into chapters, the commencement of each of which is uniformly written in red characters; three pages seem to contain a recapitulation, or collection of the titles of the chapters: each is composed of an half line, and the first word in the line is the same throughout every line in the page, and seems to be an article or a pronoun; there is a different one to each of those pages. The papyrus of the manuscript appears to me to be of a finer fabric, the writing in a clearer character, and the penciling of the design more true, and in a more determined style. I believe, it has been with these designs as with some which we see on the etruscan vases, that there have unavoidably been a great variety in the merit of their execution, and that it is very probable some may exist which are as pure and as elegant as the sculpture of those hieroglyphics which have the sharpness of chasing. The colours of this picture are still fresh, but the figures have no relief.

In moistening the papyrus, for the purpose of unrolling it, it exhaled an odour so strong and insinuating, though withal agreeable, that, to avoid inconvenience, I found it necessary to open the windows.

In the personages represented, I had reason to believe that the strange head-dresses, representing the heads of birds on the bodies of men, were a sort of masks, or exterior signs, indicating the dignity attached to degrees of initiation, and

with which the initiated were ornamented during the ceremonies. There is a figure in the act of writing; this is evidently a living person; his legs and arms are red, and of an animated hue; and his head, terminating in the beak of a bird, can only be an addition to his person. A figure, between two divinities is represented without a beard, or any mark of dignity: he has the plain, colourless habit, commonly worn by all the Egyptians; his flesh is red; he is in the attitude of a candidate, and perhaps this was his character.— All the little figures found in the act of study on the manuscripts, are also without any mark of dignity, and without beards, but they appear to be young. Two figures, under the beam of a balance, and seemingly employed in regulating it, are of the class with masks; while a little one, placing a divinity in one of the scales, is of the latter description: it is clothed only with a close cap and a piece of white cloth, and it seems to regulate the equilibrium of the opposite scale, in which is a figure of the earth: the extremities of the beam are terminated by a flower of the lotus, signifying, probably, that equilibrium of the waters, which alone caused this plant to flourish;— and the figure of a dog, or cynocephalus, which is on the top of the tree, and is green-coloured, with a large belly; it makes water on the figure of the earth, which is presented to him by an initiate, masked as an Osiris, and is, perhaps, the rain-wind, which presses the clouds against the chain of the great mountains of the moon, causing
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too much or too little inundation. This figure of Osiris appears with one hand holding the earth, and with the other touching the scale that contains the divinity, engaged in procuring an equilibrium. Another peculiarity I observed in this picture, consists in the figure of a species of lion, with teats, an open mouth, and lolling tongue : an offering of the lotus, as also of a vase half full of water, would seem to express an invocation to the divinity before whom they are placed, to obtain an entire inundation, for the succour of the thirsty earth. Prayer in Egypt is always incessant for obtaining water ; because water is always that which produces every thing ; it is the object of all desire, and the occasion of all fear ; it is the first want, the principle of vegetation, and the principle of abundance.

Every relic of antiquity which can be discovered, furnishes ground for an assertion, though not unfrequently made a support of error : desirous to give the history of a great, powerful, and enlightened people, separated from us by many ages, and by a barrier of mystery, each has endeavoured to view, in every fragment of the egyptian documents which has been brought into Europe, the proofs of a system prematurely adopted ; each has endeavoured to find an explanation of the heavens, of the earth, of the principles of the government of this people, and a picture of its manners, and the ceremonies of its worship, of its arts, of its sciences, and of its labours : the hieroglyphical forms have contributed

ted to the delirium of the imagination ; and, resting on hypotheses, each has gone on, with equal authority, in different roads, all alike obscure and difficult. An author, once, meeting with a number of vignettes, determined to paraphrase their representations ; and, the romance proving an agreeable one, none thought of controverting his system ; but, here, history, at every new acquisition of additional documents, will protest against a paraphrase ; the more the objects of comparison are multiplied, the less will one be disposed to venture the publication of visions, and the less, by consequence, will he venture to write. To amass, without method, and to collect documents which present similarities and relations, if it be not to give light, is at least to break the stone whence issues the spark by which it is produced. Impressed fully with this sentiment, I have found in myself that passive courage which is essential to making drawings of hieroglyphics, that pious ardour, that blind enthusiasm, in short, which can only be compared with that of our vestals, who, not long since, in a dead language, prayed, believed, and adored, without comprehending.

In the mummy in which I found a manuscript, there was a quantity of balsamic matter, to which the form of a mummy, and a distinct envelope, had been given. That mummy was embalmed with very particular care ; its envelopes were of rose-coloured cloth, as fine as taffeta, its bandages were covered with characters, and the upper side painted and gilt. There is reason therefore to suppose

suppose that it was the remains of a distinguished person: the little mummy introduced appears to be the remains of the embalming matter, in which the brain and entrails had been steeped, and which, possibly, containing some parts of these, was scrupulously preserved, and collected into a mass, to the end that, at the resurrection, nothing might be wanting to the distinguished personage who was to rise; so that, deficient in a part of their bodies, the common people were doomed to be as unfortunate in the other world as they had been in this. My supposition is strengthened by a similar observation on the embalment of the ibis, and the fragments of its feathers, carefully gathered up and adapted to the envelope.

Exclusive of the important manuscripts with the communication of which citizen Amelin favoured me, he has had the goodness to inform me of the particulars of the opening of a mummy at Thebes, which was carefully performed by himself; an operation concerning which he has transmitted several extraordinary circumstances; as, that a priapus, once living, and embalmed distinctly, was placed upon the corresponding part of the mummy: on the stomach of the same mummy was a little, thin, square plate of silver, on which was engraved an eye: this is the only fragment of silver which I met with in all my egyptian researches: it manifests a mechanical instrument of very refined complication: this plate was pierced at the four corners, and sewed on the linen: the body of the mummy was covered with
a tunic

a tunic of a loose web, and composed of a thread so extraordinary fine, that what is used in bone-lace is not more delicate; more minute than an hair, it is nevertheless itself twisted, and composed of two filaments, a fabrication which implies an ingenuity hitherto unheard of in the art of making thread by the hand, or by machines of the highest degree of perfection: around the loins of this mummy was a girdle composed of a sort of bugle of enamel somewhat like that now made at the manufactory of Morano, near Venice. This bugle, worked in lozenges, had a small round grain, of the same material, at each point; a band of a similar fashion, which hung in front, was terminated by eight large grains, with tassels of the material on which the whole was strung; about the neck were six jewels of gilded wood, the preparation of which was exactly the same with that now used, viz. a white body, covered with leaf-gold, a particularity very interesting in the history of the arts: in the different envelopments, there were cloths of wholly different manufactures. Exclusive of the plain and open muslin, there was a ticking, the edges of which were decorated by a border of exquisite workmanship; another sort of open tissue, composed of two filaments, much twisted, as well for the woof as for the warp, and striped, in bands of six inches wide, with thick twists made of the same thread, as is still practised in the east. All the cloths were found in rags, or awkwardly patched in several places; which would indicate that the
dead

dead were buried in old linen; for it cannot be supposed from the waste made of it in embalmments, that cloth was scarce or difficult to be procured.

Besides these curiosities, the same gentleman furnished me with several specimens of the beetle, or scarabæus, which contain some peculiarities. On the reverse of one is engraved an hero in his car, in the act of letting fly an arrow upon flying enemies, in the same manner as I have seen in low-relief on the porticoes at Thebes; on that of another the ox Apis, decorated with garlands; round the graving is a border corresponding to that which is found on the etruscan gems.

I returned to Kenh with some sick soldiers: on arriving there I found two vessels ready to sail for Kaira, and companions who were waiting my return. I was utterly ignorant of my situation and resources; for nine months, I had thought of nothing but collecting interesting curiosities; I had suffered no danger to interrupt the gratification of my mind: the dread of quitting upper Egypt without having seen it made me brave all dangers; but although the events by which I was governed have allowed me only the advantage of abridging the same researches for those who may, in calmer times, succeed me, I have still to congratulate myself that my ardour enabled me to render even this service to the arts. It was not without the greatest regret that I left all those, whose fortunes, throughout the expedition, I had so intimately shared, particularly general Belliard, the magnanimity of whose character had rendered

his intimacy so delightful: since we had been at Zaoyeh we had been parted from each other only for two days, to go to Edfu, and eight for my last expedition to Thebes; and I had every moment felt a desire to rejoin him, during these absences.

Embarking, I saw with some pain Dindera and the Thebaid disappear; the Thebaid, that sanctuary which I had so often despaired of penetrating, but which I had notwithstanding the good fortune to cross so frequently, in all directions, till at length it became that country of the universe with which I was most intimately acquainted.

We found the Nile more inhabited than ever by all sorts of water-fowl; the pelicans had swarmed it for a month past; storks, demoiselles of Numidia, all sorts of mallards, rails, and bitterns, covered the isles that the rivers had not yet submerged. We saw huge crocodiles farther down than Djirjeh; we were thirty-eight hours in reaching this city, and we found it already reconciled to our dominion: we lay-to for the night to take in some provisions and to wait for the wind; it came, and in two hours we arrived at Minshieh, the ancient Ptolemais: there remains nothing of this great city but a quay of which I have already spoken, and which is in bad preservation, though it has been better built than most Egyptian edifices of this kind; on these ruins is built a large village, peopled by christians: three miles further, we found on the right of the river the ruins of Chemnis or Panopolis, now Ashmin; there is an edifice here, buried, as I have been assured

assured, to its whole height, and of which its platform is only visible: this, no doubt, was the temple dedicated to the god Pan, and formerly consecrated to prostitution. Here, as at Metubis, there are a number of almehs and public women, if not protected, at least recognized and tolerated, by the government: I was well assured that they assembled once a week in a mosque near the tomb of the sheeh Harridi, and that, mingling sacred with profane, they committed among themselves every species of lasciviousness. Ashmin is large, and pleasantly situated on a tongue of land rendered by the Nile a promontory, and backed by the chain of the Mokatam, which doubles at this place, forming a deep gorge.

We passed the night before Anteopolis, which still possesses a portico moderately elevated, though considerably impaired: the next day, at three in the afternoon, we arrived at the port of Siut: general Desaix was not there, and we stopped only to renew our provisions: we now glided before the objects by which we had so often been detained.

The inhabitants of upper Egypt sail up and down the Nile, seated on a double bundle of straw, with a short and double paddle, their legs serving for oars: they continue on the water two or three hours, till the bundle is absolutely saturated. When the French marched towards the villages lying between the desert, and the Nile, and contiguous to both, the women and children were sent forward into the desert, and the rest of

the population, as our troops approached, sprang into the water on these fascines. The French saw them frequently pass to the opposite bank, and return afterwards to their habitations when they were at a distance.

We passed the night before Monfalut ; at day-break we were under the Mokatam, the base of which has been worn by the Nile into a peak ;—there have been formerly here quarries, of which some caverns still remain, much resembling those of Siut, and apparently in like manner applied, in antient times, to the sepulture of the dead, and to the residence of primitive cenobites. Below Djirjeh, the climate is very materially changed : the sun preserves its empire while it is present ; but, as soon as it disappears, there is no longer the scorching and untempered heat of the narrow valley of the Thébaïd. After passing Meloi, on the right bank, contiguous to the village of Shech-Abadeh, are the ruins of Antinoë, a city built by Adrian, in honour of Antinous, his favourite, who died in Egypt, having sacrificed his life to preserve that of his sovereign. It is certainly to be regretted that a sublime heroism should have allied itself with an infamous prostitution, and that it should have impelled a great man, under the sacred title of gratitude, to publish sorrows proscribed by nature, and which should have been buried in the oblivion of shame. As it is, it is not easy to determine the motives that led to the building of Antinoë at the foot of the melancholy Mokatam, between two narrow deserts,

deserts, unless it were at Bessa, a city more antient than Antinoë, that the emperor was stopped by the malady that threatened his life, and where the famous priests of that city, on being consulted, declared that the sick man would die, if some person did not devote himself to save him. From the Nile is seen one of the gates of the town, which seems to be a triumphal arch: it is decorated with eight columns of the corinthian order, between which there are three arches, adorned with pilasters: this groupe of ruins is the most interesting remain of Antinoë. From this point there is a street, which, according to every appearance, crossed the entire city, and reached the opposite gate; this street was decorated on the right and left with columns of the doric order, forming a portico which afforded a shade to passengers; there are still a few of the shafts visible, and some capitals, much worn, on account of the friability of the calcareous stone which was employed in these buildings. The houses are built in brick. The site of Antinoë must have been very large, if the mingled ruins of Bessa have not augmented the extent. In order to survey the entire of this ruin, we were about ascending an eminence, when we perceived some of the inhabitants of the village, who were collected behind another hill. Scarcely had we discovered them, opposite to us, before they conceived us posted with hostile intentions, and called to each other for assistance, throwing dust into the air, and raising loud cries. We were but six, and I was unarm-

ed;

ed; a party of them marched to the barks, which we had left unprepared for defense: we were necessarily obliged to make a movement to prevent our retreat from being cut off, and this movement appeared to them an hostility. The alarm now spread; they fired upon us; we were not come to make war; I cast an hasty look on the groupe; I did not observe any that afforded a picturesque subject for drawing: I regretted only the interesting plan that might be taken of a city built in an happy age of architecture, by the orders and under the inspection of a prince who was the greatest lover in his day of the fine arts, and the most powerful that the world had seen; and yet, to the honour of the egyptian architecture, I must say, that, still filled with the impression that I had received at Latopolis, Apollinopolis, and Tintyra, I considered the ruins of Antinoe, but as mean and insignificant.

We retired to our barks, whence we had a view, from the banks of the Nile, of the ruins and situation of the city: the entire of the right bank, as far as the environs of Miniet, in regard to agriculture, may be said to be a blank. My heart beat on approaching Miniet, where I expected to find general Desaix, to show him the fruits of my toils, to give him the enjoyment of my treasures, and to enjoy them myself in his society; but I was never more to behold this valuable and worthy friend. He was still in pursuit of the indefatigable Murat-bey. Patient under misfortune, this egyptian Fabius knew how to unite

unite courage with the resources of political activity ; he calculated his strength ; he estimated the use he could make of it in the various events of a disastrous war ; though he had to contend at once with a foreign enemy, and with all the pretensions of jealous rivals, he maintained himself immoveably the chief of those whose privations, flight, and reverses, he shared ; he continued their only rallying point, he was master of their destinies, he regulated their motions, and was the commander, not less now than at the period of his prosperity. Experience had taught him the great art of temporizing ; he had felt this important truth, that to strike a rock is to bruise oneself, that the weak ought to make use of misfortune, and to fight only when they could avail themselves of advantageous accidents ; that, in a word, when circumstances cannot be commanded, the art is to yield to those who can command them, and to deprive these, in as much as may be possible, of the means of waiting for their return : it was by such capacity, that Murat showed himself worthy of being the adversary of Defaix, and that it has become a question, which most to admire, the ingenious and repeated attacks of the one, or the cool and circumspect generalship of the other.

We learned that Murat had contrived to open a communication with lower Egypt, and that, in consequence, he had made a movement, in conjunction with all the mamluks and Arabs under his command ; that he had crossed Faium, and penetrated to the desert of the pyramids, in order

der to operate a diversion, in the event of a descent on the coast. Different divisions, however, under the command of general Friand, general Boyer, and general Jayomechck, after taking several camels, and killing several mamluks, had compelled him to re-ascend to Meniet, where Desaix met him again, and chased him from the positions he had endeavoured to occupy. We were cautioned that we might meet, some leagues below, his armed barks, which followed his movements; we therefore waited for night to avoid them, and we passed without seeing or being seen. At day-break, we found ourselves at the monastery of the Pulley, a convent situated on a peak of the rocks of the Mokatam: the monks, soon as they perceived us, swam to beg alms of the passengers: it is said, that they pillage when they can do so without danger; and that it appears the more profitable plan: I observed that they were rather amphibia than swimmers; they returned against the current like fish. Alternately the victims of three elements, they are absolutely deprived of the fourth; insulated and cut off from all agricultural pursuits, by an immense desert, they are devoured by the air they breathe, and scorched by the heat of the sun which falls on the naked rock they inhabit; it is only with difficulty and with swimming that they obtain alms, and these precarious and scanty. This monastery is called the CONVENT OF THE PULLEY, because its inhabitants cannot obtain water or other necessities of life, without the aid of that machine. It seemed

seemed to us, from the groupes of fabrics, and the number of monks who assembled on the rock, that the cloister of the monastery was large, and well inhabited. They perfectly resembled the cenobites, whose place they no doubt occupy, and the interior of the convent is probably the same with that of saint Anthony of mount Kolzim, and of the lakes of Natron. At half a league further, the chain of the Mokatam retires from the Nile, and the two banks of the river become low and culturable. Clouds, which I saw, indicated that I was now approaching the sea, and a more temperate climate. We slept near Abu-Seifn, which is a coptic monastery, and the first post above Kaira, where our troops lodged themselves, and raised fortifications, after the memorable battle of the pyramids.

In passing before the pyramids of Saccara, and the assemblage of monuments which embellished the field of death, or Necropolis of Memphis, and bounded that city on the south, as those of Djizeh on the north, the scite of this great city, which succeeded Thebes, and eclipsed its grandeur, if these pompous tombs do not ascertain, is still to be sought. All the discussions published on this subject, and which have rendered it doubtful, have come from learned men who have not visited Egypt, and who were incapable of judging how far the descriptions by Herodotus and Strabo, are absolutely to be depended on. If this discussion be not yet at an end, it is because previous to our arrival in Egypt, near as the pyramids are to

Kaira, it was always dangerous to approach them, the Arabs having kept the surrounding territory as an imprescriptible possession. By day-break, we were between Alter-Anabi and Jizeh, and opposite Roda, having on the right Kaira and Bulac, the grouping of all which presented a prospect rich in verdure, and detached itself in a brilliant and distinct manner from the smooth and wild back ground of the two chains in which the horizon terminated. I should have been willing to have made a sketch, taking in the entire of these places, but I knew that my companions would not have granted me a few minutes delay. I received sufficient conviction in this passage, that to travel by water is very ineligible for making observations; the elevated banks shut out a view of the country, and the fear of losing a wind, or that of having it contrary, alters or circumvents all projects, so that you are obliged to go on when you would stand still, and to stop, when you have nothing to see; but, I was still more convinced, that, when observations of this nature are to be made, it is improper to travel with soldiers; they are always active and unquiet, incessantly anxious to depart and to arrive, at times even when nothing urges them to leave the place at which they are, or calls them to that to which they are about to march.

I was the first member of the institute who returned from upper Egypt, and all my brethren on my arrival surrounded me, and pressed me with questions: my first enjoyment was that of
thus

thus beholding myself the interesting object of their eager curiosity, and of imparting to them the observations I had made; I determined to reduce my voyage to writing, and to make enquiries in my turn; but events fell out differently. Murat-bey, by his exertions, had collected various tribes of Arabs; he was to have joined them near the lakes of Natron, in the valley of the Waterless-River: general Murat had been sent against those tribes of Arabs, and had prevented the junction from taking place: the commander-in-chief encamped near the pyramids, for the purpose of compressing Murat-bey between Desaix and himself, when he received intelligence that a turkish fleet of two hundred sail had appeared before Abu-kir. Bonaparte, therefore, immediately left the pyramids, and returned to Jisef, where he made dispositions, and gave his orders, providing for every contingency; he marched to Rahmanieh, and took a position at Birket, equally distant from Alexandria and Abu-kir. While the different troops assembled, he went to Alexandria, took measures for its defense, gave his orders for all possible exigencies, sent the army what supplies were necessary for its march towards the enemy, and rejoined it himself at day-break, on the twenty-sixth of July. The Turks had effected their descent at Abu-kir, and taken possession of intrenchments constructed before the castle; they had put the garrison to the sword: a thousand Turks, with two pieces of cannon, occupied an eminence on their right; two thousand

more were entrenched on a rising ground on the left, at the post of the wells: a third body was before the suburb; the army was within entrenchments, flanked by a great artillery, and the space between was divided by boyaus, extended on each side to the sea; the reserve and the etat-major of the pasha occupied the ground between the entrenchments and the castle, in which was a strong garrison.

The order was given to begin the attack with that of the advanced post, which was driven back by the demi-brigades commanded by general Desaix; the cavalry cut off its retreat; one part fell under the sabre, and the other ran into the sea, where it perished. Bonaparte felt the importance of possessing himself, and depriving the enemy of the wells; the intrenched camp which protected them was attacked, and held out only a short time; the body which was lodged in it met the same fate of the former, and was treated in the same manner by the cavalry: a line was formed, and the body of the enemy that was posted before the suburb attacked; it made a momentary resistance, and soon retired among the houses: behind the walls, and in the narrow streets, it disputed the ground for a short time; but, pushed with intrepidity, notwithstanding its advantageous situation, it was compelled to fall within the intrenchments, where those who followed were stopped by the artillery and the fire of the ramparts: we rallied in the suburb; and,
after

BY M. DENON.

after a few moments, we assaulted, with equal ardour, the boyaus, on the right and left.

The infantry under the command of general Fugiere, performed prodigies of valour, while the cavalry frequently threw itself between the fires of the batteries and gun-boats. Adjutant-general le Tureq, in an attempt to precipitate his companies into the trenches, was surrounded and killed. By repeated forties, the enemy repossessed himself of the ground which a handful of our brave men had acquired; the slaughter was equal, and the victory doubtful. There is always a moment in a battle, in which, in the equal strife, both parties feel the inefficacy of their resources, and the inutility of their efforts, in which the wasting of their strength and the thought of preservation, inspire the combatants with a similar inclination to retreat; this favourable moment, seized by a man of superior mind, who knows how to take advantage of this moral circumstance, as that in which he is to employ the resources he has in reserve, always decides the victory in his favour.

At the instant the troops of the pasha had made a fortie to cut off the heads of those who remained on the field of battle, the gallant Murat, rallying the courage of his own, effected a fresh charge; with equal rapidity and valour, he crossed the works of the enemy, took him in the rear, and cut off all retreat. This hardy movement re-animated the action, which now became general;

ral ; all points were attacked, and all carried ; the defeat was universal ; all who had not been killed were made prisoners : the cavalry charged the fugitives in the sea itself, into which they plunged in hopes to regain their fleet by swimming. There had been twenty thousand Turks ; six thousand were made prisoners ; four thousand perished on the field of battle, and the remainder were drowned. From this moment there were no more enemies : never was there a battle more decisive, nor a victory more complete : it was what Bonaparte, on leading them back from Syria, had promised his brave troops ; it was the last that he won in Egypt. It was doubtlessly his good genius, or ours, that inspired him with the thought that France and all Europe invoked him to the performance of operations as glorious and still more useful : General ! exclaimed Kleber, embracing him, you are vast as the world, and the world is not large enough for you !

That nothing may remain to be wished concerning the details of this interesting battle, I add the military report made by general Berthier, in his work entitled *RELATION DES CAMPAGNES DU GENERAL BONAPARTE EN EGYPTE ET EN SYRIE*.

“ Bonaparte commanded the column to halt, and made his arrangements for the attack.

“ Brigadier-general Desteing, with his three battalions, was to carry the eminence on the right of the enemy, which was occupied by a thousand men. At the same time, a picket of cavalry had orders

orders to cut off this body in its retreat on the village.

“ Lannes’ division was to advance upon the sand-hill, on the left of the enemy’s first line, and where he had two thousand men, and six pieces of cannon ; two squadrons of cavalry had orders to observe its motions, and cut off the corps in its retreat.

“ The rest of the cavalry was to advance upon the center.

“ Lanusse’s division was to remain in the second line.

“ General Destaing charged the enemy with the bayonet. He quitted his intrenchments, and fell back on the village ; the cavalry put the fugitives to the sabre.

“ The corps against which the division of Lannes marched, seeing that the right of its first line gave way, and that the cavalry was about to turn its position, endeavoured to retire, after firing a few shots ; two squadrons of cavalry, and a platoon of guides cut off its retreat, and forced its two thousand men to drown themselves in the sea ; no one escaped death : Hercule, the commander of the horse-guides, was wounded.

“ General Destaing’s corps marched against the village, which formed the center of the enemy’s second line, and turned it, while the thirty-second demi-brigade attacked it in front ; the enemy made a stout resistance, his second line detached a considerable body from its left, to the relief of the village ; the cavalry charged and
routed

routed it, and pursued the fugitives, of which a great part precipitated themselves into the sea.

“ The village was carried ; the enemy was pursued to the redoubt, the center of his second position. This position was a very strong one ; the redoubt was flanked by a boyau, which defended the peninsula on the right, as far as the sea ; another boyau extended to the left, only to a small distance from the redoubt ; the rest of the space was occupied by the enemy, who was on the sand-hills, and among the palm-trees.

“ While the troops rested, artillery was planted in the village, and along the shore, bearing on the right of the enemy, and on his redoubt ; general Destaing’s battalion, in the village they had carried, formed the center of attack on the face of the redoubt : they received orders to march.

“ General Fugiere received orders to form the eighteenth demi-brigade in column, and march along the sea, to carry, by a charge of the bayonet, the right of the Turks. The thirty-second, which occupied the left of the village, had orders to hold the enemy in check, and to support the eighteenth.

“ The cavalry, which had formed on the right of the army, attacked the enemy’s left, repeatedly charging it with great fury, put to the sabre, and drove into the sea all before it : but it could not remain beyond the redoubt ; hurried by its bravery between the fires of this and of the gun-boats, it was forced to fall back as often ; and
fresh

fresh forces of the enemy presented themselves on the bodies of those who fell.

“ This resistance and these obstacles only increased the boldness and courage of the cavalry ; at each charge, it rushed to the very ditch of the redoubt : chief-of-brigade Duvivier was killed. Adjutant-general Roze, who directed the movements with equal coolness and talent, Bessieres, chief-of-brigade of the cavalry-guides, and adjutant-general le Turcq were at the head of the charges.

“ The horse-artillery, that of the guides, took post under the musketry of the enemy, and by a vigorous fire of case-shot powerfully contributed to the success of the battle.

“ Adjutant-general le Turcq judged a reinforcement of infantry necessary ; he represented his opinion to the commander-in-chief, who gave him a battalion of the seventy-fifth ; he rejoined the cavalry ; his horse was killed ; immediately, he put himself at the head of the infantry, and flew to the center of the left, to rejoin the eighteenth demi-brigade, which he saw on its march to attack the intrenchments of the right of the enemy.

“ The eighteenth advanced towards the intrenchments ; the enemy, at the same time, sallied out upon his right ; the heads of the columns fought man to man ; the Turks endeavoured to wrest the bayonets out of the hands of the French ; they slung their muskets behind them, and fought with the sabre and pistol : at length,

the eighteenth reached the intrenchments; but the fire of the redoubt, which every where flanked the intrenchment, behind which the enemy again rallied, stopped the column: general Fugieres, and adjutant-general le Turcq, performed prodigies of valour; the first received a wound in the head, and he continued nevertheless to fight; a ball carried away his left arm, he was obliged to follow the movement of the eighteenth, which, in the greatest order, and keeping up a very brisk fire, retreated to the village. Adjutant-general le Turcq, who had vainly endeavoured to persuade the column to throw itself into the enemy's intrenchments, sprang into them himself alone, and met a glorious death; chief-of-brigade Morangie was wounded.

"Twenty brave men of the eighteenth remained upon the ground; the Turks, in spite of the dreadful fire from the village, darted from their intrenchments to cut off the heads of the dead and wounded, in order to obtain the silver aigrette which the government bestows on every soldier who brings the head of an enemy.

"The general-in-chief had caused a battalion of the twenty-second, and another of the sixty-ninth, to advance upon the left of the enemy; general Lannes, who was at their head, seized the moment in which the Turks had imprudently left their intrenchments; he stormed the redoubt on its left and on its gorge; the thirty-second, the sixty-ninth, and a battalion of the seventy-fifth, leaped into the ditch, and were soon
upon

the parapet and within the works, and, at the same time, the eighteenth charged the right of the enemy with the bayonet afresh.

“ General Murat, who commanded the advanced guard, who followed the movements, and who was constantly with the riflemen, seized the moment in which general Lannes threw his battalion of the thirty-second and sixty-ninth on the redoubt, to order the horse to charge, and pass all the enemy's positions to the ditches of the fort; this movement was performed with so much precision and impetuosity, and so opportunely, that, at the moment the redoubt was forced, the squadron was on the spot to cut off the enemy's retreat to the fort; the enemy was disordered and terrified, he found bayonets and death every where; the cavalry put him to the sabre, and he had no resource but in the sea; ten thousand men precipitated themselves into its waves, and were followed by musket and case shot; never was there so terrible a fight; not one survived; the ships were two leagues distant, in the road of Abu-kir: Mustapha-pasha, the commander-in-chief, and two hundred Turks were made prisoners; two thousand men fell on the field; all the tents and baggage fell into the hands of the French.”

On my return to Kaira, general Bonaparte attentively examined the results of my travels; he considered my mission as accomplished, and proposed that I should bear to Alexandria the trophies of Abu-kir. General Berthier, whose kindness I

had often experienced, restored my nephew to me in order to accompany my return, with the same kindness that Dufalga had given him on my voyage. It was but a few days since I had left Thebes, and I seemed already within sight of Paris: my departure, which I did not expect for some time, was appointed for the morrow; I was favoured with the realization of a dream. Moving in the direction of my desires, I felt as if in their vortex: I know not whether I was not alarmed; but a something for which I could not account made me regret Kaira; I had scarcely ever lived there, and yet I had always left it with sorrow. I felt at length to what a degree, naturally and without perceiving it, we are sensible of the mild enjoyment imparted by a delicious temperature, and which, even in the absence of other pleasures, occasions us to feel, every instant, the happiness of existence; a quotidian sensation, to which may be attributed what has often happened in this country, and this it is, that Europeans, arrived for a few months at Kaira, have grown old in that city, without ever persuading themselves to leave it. In a word, the project, the departure, and the return, of my singular journey, were a series of surprises and unforeseen circumstances, which, whether to set out or to come back, constantly placed me in the advanced-guard. In two days, I was embarked on board a little armed vessel which had waited for us at Bulac, and past the division of the Nile that forms the Delta, and Chebreis, where the first battle was fought

fought with the Mamluks ; on the third day of our voyage we arrived at Rahmanieh, from whence we set out next day, accompanied by a detachment of dromedaries, and fifty men ; we arrived at Demenhur, and, following the canal of Alexandria, after having crossed the province of Garbieh, we reached Birket, where we stopped that night. The next morning we breakfasted at the well of Beda, and dined at Alexandria.

The first object that struck me on my arrival was the equipment of two of our frigates ; these were at the mouth of the new port, and already at single anchor : I no longer saw english cruizers, and I began to believe in prodigies : generals Lannes, Murat, and Marmont, were evidently in trouble and agitation ; we understood each other without speaking ; we could employ ourselves in nothing ; we were incessantly at the same window, looking at the sea, and following the motion of every little vessel, when, at one o'clock in the morning, on the twenty-fourth of August, general Menou came to inform us that Bonaparte waited in the road. An hour after, we were without the port ; at day-break, a north-wind put us on our course ; the same wind lasted two days, and carried us beyond the latitude of the english cruizers. Obligated to conceal our way, we ran along the barren coast of the antient Cyrenaica ; opposed by the currents which, in this unknown and avoided gulf, bear on the shore, it was with great difficulty, at this period of calms and variable weather, that we doubled the capes of Derna and Doira ;

Doira; here we found an easterly wind, with which we crossed the gulf of Cidra; in a short time afterwards we doubled cape Bon, and arrived in Europe, without having seen a single vessel. We all felt convinced that we had a star, and nothing interrupted our satisfaction and confidence: Bonaparte, as a passenger, amused himself with geometry and chemistry, and played and laughed with us sometimes. We passed before the gulf of Carthage, and before the port of Biferta; we reconnoitered Lampedosa, which is inhabited by a man who feeds a few sheep and poultry; hermit and santon at the same time, he receives with equal hospitality all who land at his dwelling, the christians in a chapel, and the mahomedans in a mosque. We saw the beetling rocks of Pantalleria, and, soon after, discovered the summit of Sardinia and the mouths of the Bonifacio, another point at which the english cruisers were to be apprehended; every where an uninterrupted silence reigned throughout the space, nothing disturbed our safety; our bark bore Cæsar and his fortunes. Corsica, at length, gave us the first sight of a friendly shore: a strong wind carried us to Ajaccio; a little vessel that we retained was sent into the port, to collect news from France, and bring intelligence concerning the cruifings of the enemy on our coasts. While we awaited its return, a gale of wind forced us into the gulf, and we anchored in the country of Bonaparte. He was thought to have been lost; accident brought him to its coast, and nothing could

could be more affecting than the welcome he received; cannon was heard from all quarters; the whole of the inhabitants seemed in the boats which surrounded our vessels. I looked all around for madame Bonaparte; I anticipated in my mind the emotion, the agitation, the extent of the happiness of a mother in suddenly finding her son! and such a son! but when I heard that she was not at Ajaccio, I beheld nothing in this brilliant reception but a scene of pomp and triumph. The enthusiasm had caused the danger of approaching us to be overlooked; the frigate had been rather stormed than boarded: It is we, said the Corsicans to Bonaparte, it is we who have the plague; it is for you to cure us.

We had been defeated in Italy; we heard the consequences at Ajaccio: during our stay we employed ourselves in the melancholy perusal of our disasters in the collection of public prints; all the fruits of our splendid campaigns in Italy were swallowed up in the loss of two engagements: the Russians were on our confines; and these were about to be opened by disorder, anxiety, and terror.

The wind became favourable, and we put to sea; on the second day, under a fresh breeze, and in view of the french shore, we were rejoicing in our good fortune, when, to windward, we descried two sail, then five, and then seven; we lowered our topmasts, and sought refuge in obscurity, which was again propitious: the wind waisted to us the signals fired by the enemy's fleet,
which

which formed a half-circle on our coast. It was debated whether we should return to Corsica, the cape of which was still in view : happily, Bonaparte again assumed command, he had a choice ; it was the first of the voyage, and it was obedient to his fortune. We steered for the shore of Provence, and at midnight we were so near that we no longer apprehended any danger from the fleet. Had another decision caused us to sail back to Corsica, we perhaps should have remained there still. At day-break we arrived in sight of Frejus ; and we entered the same port in which, eight centuries ago, saint Lewis embarked on an expedition for the country we had left.

Nothing was more unexpected than our arrival in France ; the intelligence spread with the utmost rapidity. Scarcely was the flag of the commander-in-chief on the mainmast, before the shore was crowded with people who uttered the name of Bonaparte with an accent that expressed a want ; the enthusiasm was at its acme, and it produced confusion ; the contagion was no longer recollected ; the vessels in the port immediately covered our two frigates with people, who, fearing nothing but deception in the hope that brought them, required Bonaparte at our hands, scarcely believing that he was restored to them.— Sublime effusion ! it was France that seemed to open her arms to him who was to give her back her splendour, and who, from her frontiers, called out upon him to assume the reins of government. Our hero was carried to Frejus ; an hour after

after, a carriage was procured, and he was on his road.

Rejoiced at having at length accomplished my objects, I permitted every one to go before me, that I might enjoy the delight of being no longer in an hurry, one which I had not tasted since I left Paris. At another time, being at Frejus, I should have thought myself a traveller; but now, arriving from Africa, I seemed to be at home, to be a citizen of this little town, that is to say, to have nothing left to do in the world. I rose late, I breakfasted methodically; I took my walk, I visited the amphitheatre and the ruins, looking with complacency on the vessels which had carried us, at anchor in the port by which we had been received.

Here ends my journal; but I am unwilling to leave my reader without presenting him with a concluding observation on the form and design of this work.

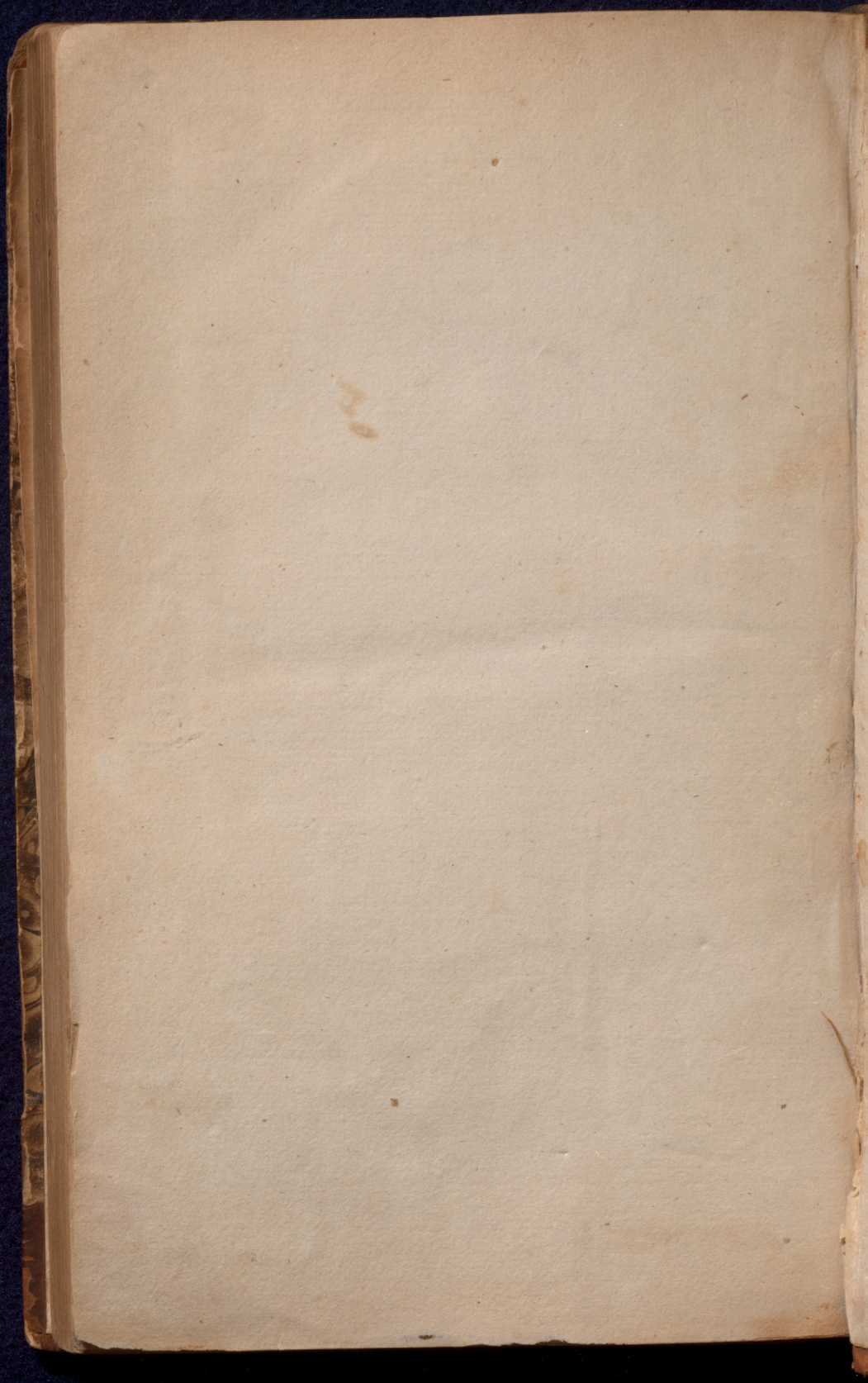
When I left Alexandria, the members of the institute were still at Kaira: arrived in France, I was unconscious whether they had been able to perform the travels in upper Egypt which had been assigned to them, before the departure of Bonaparte: the occurrences of the war might have stopped the proceedings of this learned society, or hindered them from bringing to France their precious results: in which case, I should have been the only one able to write on the country in question. I could not, therefore, without injus-

tice, deny my fellow-citizens the numerous fruits of my researches and painful labours, and I determined on publication.

I had first intended to have added to my journal some critical digressions on the antiquities, and to have joined to my descriptions discussions on the travellers by whom I have been preceded; I had consulted some well informed persons, in order to add learned notes on the curious objects of which I was to present the image: but, no sooner was I informed that the institute of Kaira had effected its voyage in tranquillity, that the members had curbed their ardour and emulation by no bounds but the orders established by their general of division; that they had come back laden with spoils; that the government, after having supported their travels, supplied the charge of publishing a collection so interesting, than I dropped the thought of pursuing a plan which others could execute much better. Reduced to my small resources, how could I be willing to measure my labours with the labours of an entire society, to set down hypotheses when, no doubt, their's will present certainties; in a word, to grope my way by the side of an assemblage of light. I have therefore, divested my journal of all the pursuits on which I had ventured; I have again assumed my uniform of pioneer, and my post in the advanced-guard, where I retain no pretension but that of having planted a few stakes on the road, for the information of those who succeed, and, were it only by my fault, thus to be

be serviceable to the editors of the great work : well pleased, for my own part, if, through my enthusiasm, I have been able to give my readers an idea of a country so important ; if I have been enabled to present them with its form, its colour, and its particular character ; if, in a word, as an eye-witness, I have made them acquainted with the details of an extraordinary campaign, itself the principal part of the vast conception of this celebrated expedition : if I have accomplished this, it is because I have had from nature herself the advantage of taking all my drawings and all my descriptions.

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